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Kent on Sunday

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WE JOIN THE FIGHT

Campaign: Why airport proposal can't take off

By Chris Britcher
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THIS newspaper today comes out fighting to join the ranks of the thousands who oppose a plot to build a multi-billion pound airport in the Thames Estuary.

If the controversial proposals were to get the green light, we believe it could devastate the county we hold so dear.

With a public consultation due to get under way within weeks, we urge our readers to oppose the plans which would ruin our north Kent coastline, destroy important areas of wildlife, and transform parts of the county into a concrete jungle, blighted by heavy air traffic.

It may create jobs, but it will destroy huge swathes of Kent; forever.

We join the fight just as re-elected London Mayor Boris Johnson, who has championed the proposals, this week made a direct plea to Prime Minister David Cameron calling for an estuary airport to be built, declaring now was a "moment for greatness".

Mr Johnson wants to shift the blight suffered by those under Heathrow's flight path to our doorstep.

Kent's top brass, which includes

Continued on page 2

EDUCATION

Parents launch fight for places

ALMOST 100 primary school children have missed out on their first choice of school in a village, sparking an emotional campaign by "devastated" parents.

Families living in Bearsted are working with Kent County Council to help find a solution to the lack of places. **PAGE 2**

HEALTH

Mums dispute report findings

A GROUP of mothers whose babies were born with a rare stomach disease have reacted with anger to a report refuting their claims of a "cluster of cases".

The report says the cases correspond with national averages, despite five mothers living in the same road. **PAGE 9**

SPORT

Play-off glory awaits winner

DARTFORD and Welling United go head-to-head today in a bid to secure a berth in the top tier of English non-league football.

The Blue Sq Conference South play-off final at the Darts' Princes Park will see the winner elevated to within touching distance of Football League status. **PAGE 79**



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INSIDE

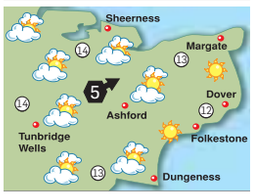
- News. 2-28
- Kent Remembered 29
- Comment/Feedback 30-31
- Business Week. 34-35
- Jobs and careers. . . 36-37
- Foster Care Fortnight 38-39
- Skilful Kent. 40-41
- Jobs & Notices. 42-48
- Sport. 78-79

INSIDE



- Interview 53
- Food and Drink. 55
- LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 57-63
- HOMES
- Property. 64-69
- MOTORS
- Driving 71-77

Weather



TODAY: Fine and dry. Sunny spells and patchy cloud. Gentle winds. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	05.25	5.7	17.47	5.8
Margate	06.36	4.2	18.45	4.2
St Mary's	11.23	4.4	23.54	4.6

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 16C	Min 6C
Tuesday	Max 14C	Min 4C
Wednesday	Max 15C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 14C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 7C
Saturday	Max 15C	Min 7C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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AIRPORT

Sign the petition to show you're against estuary plans

Continued from front page

Medway and Swale councils – the authorities set to be hit hardest should any plans get the nod – welcomed our support of the campaign they have spearheaded.

They are currently looking to set up a meeting with Mr Johnson after he agreed to finally meet with officials in the county to discuss the plans for the first time. He only made the concession after this newspaper challenged him on it in the week before his election. Prior to that, he had constantly snubbed all efforts to hold face-to-face talks.

There are currently two proposals. One, put forward by renowned architect Lord Foster, would see an airport built on the Isle of Grain. Another, championed by Boris Johnson, and dubbed Boris Island, would be built on reclaimed land in the middle of the estuary itself.

Both would require an enormous amount of infrastructure and turn Kent into a building site for up to 20 years.

They would also devastate rare and protected wildlife on the north Kent coastline.

Rodney Chambers, leader of Medway Council, said: "We are extremely pleased your newspaper has committed to campaigning against an airport on or near the Thames Estuary.

"While it will not come as a surprise to many that a campaigning local newspaper such as yours is keen to fight for the homes of its readers and the communities they live in, I would like to congratulate you for doing this. The proposals for an estuary airport have been put forward by politicians and architects based in London – not Kent or Essex – and we are strongly of the view that these plans are unaffordable, unnecessary and unwanted.

"The Mayor of London has been one of the strongest advocates for an airport and we – as well as other council leaders across Kent – have continually asked him for a meeting so that we can point out why the Thames Estuary is the very worst spot.

"We would like to thank your newspaper for getting him to agree to meet and talk about the airport and now the London mayoral elections are over we will be contacting his office to arrange that meeting.

"However, we are mindful that we also need to talk to government and ensure it hears why an estuary airport is a non-runner and why there are many other alternative ways to increase airport capacity without building a huge hub airport on the Kent coast.

"Medway will work with councils across Kent and Essex, as well as the RSPB and others, to put forward the strongest possible message when the consultation opens."

Andrew Bowles, leader of Swale Borough Council, added: "The idea of an airport in the estuary, whether it is Boris Island or an airport on the Isle of Grain, would be an environmental disaster. Any scheme like this would radically alter and damage an important environmental area. I do not believe the airlines would support an airport in this situation and it is just a distraction from the real options that are available."

Gravesham Borough Council leader John Burden said: "The various schemes for airports in the estuary range from the tinpot to the crackpot. Where they are serious in intent they would come with an unbearably huge environmental price tag. I would urge the government to look elsewhere for its air capacity solution.

"Ever since the Cliffe marshes scheme a decade ago to Boris Island and the latest Hoo plan, airport projects have come and gone – but we have to ask ourselves whether the destruction of world class environmental and scientific sites and their neighbouring communities is a price even worth considering."

This week musician Jools Holland added his support to the campaign too – full story see page five.

■ **Add your name to the protest. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk. And send us your views on the airport. Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line.**

EDUCATION

School places shortage means almost 100 children in village miss out on first choice

By Marijke Cox
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PRESSURE is mounting on education chiefs to address the severe shortage of primary school places after almost 100 children missed out on their preferred option in one area.

A meeting was held with parents and campaigners in the Bearsted area of Maidstone, where three schools – Madginford Park Infants, Thurnham CofE Infants and St John's Primary – cater for children living there.

Admission figures revealed by Peter Read of Kent Independent Education Advice showed 93 were turned away from their first choice for the September 2012 intake.

Campaigners from School Allocation Trouble (SAT) said locally around 30 families were affected, as many of the others missing out were from outside the area.

Group spokeswoman Liz Slavik-Smith said there were several solutions on the table, including the possible increase of forms of entry at St John's from one to two, meaning an extra 30 places.

But the school – now an academy – is out of Kent County Council control and therefore under no obligation to create additional places.

Ms Slavik-Smith said: "St John's is reluctant. They say they are a small village school, even though it's located in the middle of a housing estate. Parents are devastated they can't get their children into one of these local schools and they instead have to travel elsewhere."



NO PLACE: Around 30 children from the village have been denied school places nearby

Other options put forward to deal with the shortage are to increase the intake at the three existing schools, creating 14 places, as well as leader of KCC Paul Carter working with the appeals panel to encourage them to allow more children in exceptional circumstances.

Ms Slavik-Smith said during the meeting this week that Cllr Carter vowed to work with the campaign group and parents to find a solution to the problem.

"Cllr Carter is on our side; he is speaking with the head of St John's. But if that fails we're looking to go to ministers about this," she said.

The problem is being blamed on the large number of pupils' siblings gaining places at Thurnham school.

Ms Slavik-Smith said: "It's being said it was caused by sibling intake, which can't be planned for."

But education expert Mr Read said KCC had no real explanation for the problem: "Those responsible for planning must have known from the data they collect for planning that 2012 was going to be difficult.

"In several other areas with problems, extra provision has been made available. There is none in Maidstone."

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Gallery pictures: PAUL JERREAT







NEW LOOK: Work is under way to install the latest exhibition at Turner Contemporary, a selection of pieces by Margate's Tracey Emin

EXHIBITION

Gallery reveals the art of change

By Chrissie Daniels
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WHEN visitors arrive at Turner Contemporary on May 26 for the opening of Tracey Emin's latest art exhibition they will have little idea of the time and effort it took to install the work.

From removing pieces of art to repainting walls, each time an exhibition closes the gallery's technical staff work late into the night to complete the huge turnaround.

Between Tuesday, May 15, and Friday, May 25, parts of the Margate gallery will be closed while Emin's She Lay Down Deep Beneath the Sea is prepared and the Turner exhibition and Walk by Hamish Fulton are taken down.

Head of exhibitions, Sarah Martin, said: "Despite the turnaround, visitors can still see our shows in the Foyle Rooms and art in the downstairs displays. We still want people to come and visit us during this time."

Neville Mutton, gallery and technical manager, said: "When visitors see an exhibition, they probably do not realise how many people and how much frenetic activity has gone into changing the art and the very fabric of the galleries.

"Since Turner Contemporary opened in April, 2011, we have made a point of working with local art technicians, sub-contractors and suppliers for our turnarounds. There is a great bank of local skill and enthusiasm to tap into and we rely on the skill and dedication of this team to make the turnaround happen."

The first few days are taken up removing the old installation and transporting it safely.

The pace then increases with temporary wall structures built, wall colours changed, and cables placed ready for the next artist's pieces.

Mr Mutton said: "It's an intense period involving early starts and working late into the night to get everything ready for the next exhibition.

"We aim to prepare the galleries really quickly and give the incoming artist/curator plenty of time to install their artworks.

"Two or three weeks must seem like a long time for our visitors, but I can assure you we need every day of it to transform from one exhibition to the next. "

The gallery keeps visitors entertained during the changeover with short films and other exhibitions in different parts of the building.

Art lovers can see Auguste Rodin's The Kiss, Michael Craig Martin's Turning Pages, and James Webb's Margate pier painting, in the downstairs areas of the gallery.

The shop remains open and an exhibition of works by Stephen Hughes, taken during the construction of Turner Contemporary, is in the café.

The gallery will also show short films such as Emin's Illuminations, where she talks frankly about her career and work.

TURNER CONTEMPORARY

The gallery was opened in April, 2011, in a bid to regenerate Margate and has since seen more than half a million people walk through its doors – including the Queen.

It is said to have generated £13 million for the economy and created 130 jobs.

World-renowned artist Tracey Emin grew up in Margate and opened the gallery last year after giving the project her full support.

Emin studied at Maidstone Art College and credits Margate as the inspiration for many of her pieces.

Her latest exhibition to be shown at the gallery will feature neons, monoprints, sculptures and drawings.

SPORT

Hill heads back to the race track for children's charity fundraiser

FORMER Formula 1 champion Damon Hill is getting back behind the wheel to race again – and he has chosen the famed Kent track Brands Hatch for his comeback.

Hill took the championship in 1996, after being cheated out of the title two years previously when arch rival Michael Schumacher took him out of the final race of the season.

The son of Grand Prix legend Graham Hill, is making his racing comeback on May 19 in the Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup event, which is supporting the British round of the DTM championship. Schumacher's brother Ralf is also racing.

Hill finally hung up his racing wheel in 1999, but was



RACER RETURNS: Damon Hill

tempted back when he discovered he would be joining other stars like Mark Blundell, Perry McCarthy, Julian Bailey, Martin Donnelly and David Brabham. Most are members of the so-called Rat Pack – they rose to stardom during the 80s via the ranks of Formulas Ford, Three, and 3000, into Formula One.

The group has remained close friends and are racing for their own personal glory, and to also raise money for Hill's charity, HALOW.

It is dedicated to creating opportunities and supporting young people with a learning disability so that they are able to live independently. The charity is named after five young people, one of them being Oliver Hill, Damon's son.

Hill said: "Perry, Julian and I are coming out of retirement for this race so we are sure to be pretty rusty. But I am looking forward to it."

Advance tickets are £29 with free entry for children aged 12 and under. Call 0843 453 9000 or visit www.brandshatch.co.uk for details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asbo twins town ban

TWIN teenage girls have been banned from West Malling town centre after repeatedly causing trouble.

Chelsea Shannon Scott, 18, and her sister Leonie Vicky Scott, of Eccles, were given Asbos for repeated nuisance and public order offences, including assault on police, criminal damage, shoplifting and harassment. The order bans them from West Malling town centre, Eaton Place in Larkfield and Tesco in Lunsford Park.

Five saved from blaze

FIVE people had to be rescued from a block of flats in Cliftonville, Margate after a fire broke out.

Residents from the lower floors managed to escape the blaze in Ethelbert Road on Thursday but others became trapped. Four climbed out of windows onto balconies and were rescued by fire crews. Firefighters found a woman struggling for air in the property. She received oxygen therapy and was taken to hospital.

Wild kangeroo spotted

A DOG walker has come face to face with a wild kangeroo or wallaby while out in Pluckley.

The quick-thinking 29-year-old – calling themselves Paws4Shackleton on YouTube – whipped out their camera and filmed the unlikely animal, publishing it with the caption: "Early morning dog walk near Pluckley, Kent - last animal you would expect to see."

To see the clip go to www.kentnews.co.uk.

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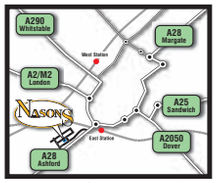
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CAMPAIGN

Jools joins chorus of disapproval over controversial plans

Exclusive by Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MUSICIAN and TV star Jools Holland says he is prepared to fight against the "brutalisation" of the countryside after becoming the latest big name to oppose proposals to build a Thames Estuary airport.

The star, who lives in the area, said the plans would cause shocking human and ecological damage.

It comes in the same week that this newspaper, join the campaign to fight the plans and protect the county we all hold so dear.



Picture: FOSTER AND PARTNERS

Mr Holland, who presents the ever-popular Later... music TV show and hosts his own BBC Radio 2 show, lives in Cooling Castle – six miles north of Rochester, on Hoo.

One of the proposals put forward by architect Lord Foster is to build an international hub on nearby Grain.

Another, promoted by London Mayor Boris Johnson, and dubbed 'Boris Island' would be sited on reclaimed land in the estuary itself.

Either proposal would devastate large swathes of the north Kent coast and blight the lives of hundreds of thousands across the county.

Despite the proposals promising a huge jobs boom, it would take nearly 20 years before work was complete and the impact on the quality of life and natural habitat would be immense.

In a letter to local council chiefs, Mr Holland explains: "I am opposed to an airport. I am against the brutalisation of the countryside and the human and ecological damage it would cause.

"Further, the area is currently protected by strong European legislation.

"You have my best wishes for a successful campaign."

He is not the first major name to publicly oppose the plans.

Earlier this year writer and academic Germaine Greer signed a letter along with a host of local figures from across the political divide – both in Kent and neighbouring Essex – to oppose the plans.

The letter, also signed by leading figures within the RSPB, Ukip leader Nigel Farage, and a host of Kent MPs said: "We believe plans for an airport on or near the Thames Estuary should be grounded.

"The airport would cost up to £70 billion. Proponents say foreign backers would pay for this, but they go quiet when asked who would foot the bill for the road and rail links to London.

"Aircraft using this airport would be 12 times more at risk of bird strike than at any other major UK airport. The airport would also be close to Thamesport, where huge container ships unload one fifth of the UK's liquid natural gas supplies, as well as the proposed London Array wind farm and the wreck of SS Richard Montgomery, which is still packed with 1,400 tonnes of explosives.

"The airport would also destroy an area used by 300,000 migrating birds every year, and would devastate the ecosystem of the Thames Estuary, which is of worldwide scientific importance. Great swathes of the countryside would have to be developed to make way for new roads, rail links, industrial estates, depots and hotels. Some have pointed to the economic benefits to north Kent and south Essex of such an airport, but the airport is still decades away and most of the jobs would be low paid.

"Finally, this airport would have a drastic economic effect on our existing airports. Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, has admitted to MPs that the Government would have to legislate to force airlines to move from Heathrow.

"We believe there are better solutions to the UK's aviation needs than an airport on the Thames Estuary."

BACK THE CAMPAIGN

THIS newspaper is officially endorsing the campaign against the airport proposals.

We believe Kent is a county in which we are all proud. Its rolling countryside, unspoilt coastline, its havens for beautiful and precious wildlife – not to mention its people – make it something very special.

We are convinced an airport would devastate huge swathes of it.

Forever.

It may bring jobs, but it would also bring enormous disruption and development, transforming towns, villages and countryside into an urban sprawl of concrete, roads and pollution; destroying what so many of us hold so dear.

So we urge you to stand united against the plans and join us in opposing plans for an airport in the Thames Estuary.

Send us your messages of support for the campaign: Put 'airport' as the subject line and email it to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

Or visit www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk and sign the online petition.

Picture: BBC



BRUTALISATION: Jools Holland is against the development of an airport in the Thames Estuary, Lord Foster's design, left, is one of two proposals

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chickens shot dead

THIRTEEN chickens have been killed and one injured at a smallholding in Sellindge.

Police believe the birds may have been shot with a catapult or struck with an object. At first it was thought the chickens had died of a disease, but this has been ruled out following tests by DEFRA. Two boys, aged 14 and 16, have been questioned about the deaths of the animals, which had been re-homed to the site near Ashford.

Major funding boost

A HISTORICAL house built as a palace for the Archbishop of Canterbury 600 years ago has moved one step closer to receiving £7.5m funding for a public conservation studio.

The decade-long project for Knole in Sevenoaks aims to help conserve the building while also reaching out to people in the community as a place to work, train and learn.

The scheme will be the most significant transformation at Knole in more than 400 years.

Drugs factory busted

MORE than 100 cannabis plants are to be destroyed after officers shut down a drugs factory in Maidstone on Wednesday.

Following a tip off, officers attended a residential address in Well Road, where 120 cannabis plants were discovered. The factory will now be dismantled and the equipment, such as the lighting, will be destroyed. Police are now looking to identify those involved in the cultivation.

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COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Dust settles on shock defeat as Tories prepare to elect new leader and Ukip celebrates victory

By Chris Britcher
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CONSERVATIVE Party members in Tunbridge Wells will elect a new leader on Thursday – two weeks after the sensational defeat in the local elections of former incumbent Bob Atwood.

In one of the biggest shocks of the local elections, Cllr Atwood was beaten in his Rusthall ward by the UK Independence Party (Ukip); a defeat party members blamed on the Euro-sceptic party pushing a national agenda on doorsteps, rather than local issues.

Regardless of the reasons, however, the defeat was remarkable given the context in which Mr Atwood had risen to prominence and power in the spa town.

Having only been elected to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for the first time in May, 2008, he was elected leader in January, 2011, following a period of enormous turmoil within the local Tory party and upset among residents over town centre regeneration plans.

Former leader Roy Bullock was ousted from his position in a coup which left the county councillor stunned and replaced by the Rusthall newcomer.

His arrival as leader saw him immediately start to sail the ship out of troubled waters, putting the brakes on the unpopular redevelopment proposals, and, remarkably, restoring the faith of local voters.

But his tenure concluded on Wednesday when his deputy, former mayor David Jukes, took over as temporary leader.

The local Conservative Party will elect a new leader this coming Thursday.

Cllr Jukes has confirmed he has put his name forward. If more than one person is nominated the party will vote.

At the council's AGM on May 23, the new leader will then be elected the authority's new leader.

Another high- profile casualty saw cabinet member Brian Ransley lose his seat, too.





UPHEAVAL: The electorate have booted Tory Bob Atwood off the council, as Ukip leader Nigel Farage celebrates his party's success

Speaking this week, Cllr Jukes said: "Bob was totally devastated by the defeat. It was grossly unfair as he'd put in a huge amount of effort in Rusthall, knocking on pretty much every door.

"I think the problem was that Ukip were standing on doorsteps talking about a withdrawal from Europe which no doubts hits a nerve with many.

"But this was a local election and we campaigned on local issues about the future of Tunbridge Wells."

Immediately after the result was confirmed, Mr Atwood – who lost by just under 50 votes to Ukip's Piers Wauchope – a former Camden Tory councillor – said: "I'm shocked but not surprised. I just feel sorry the people of Rusthall now have two councillors they will come to regret having elected."

The other Rusthall seat, not up for election on May 3, was already Ukip.

A triumphant Mr Wauchope said: "I was quietly confident about a month ago, less so a week before the polls shut, and quite shaky the day before. But I'm delighted."

It prompted Ukip leader Nigel Farage to predict more election success awaited his party.

The MEP, who lives in Westerham, said: "This shows real pressure and that Ukip is a serious contender.

"Next year is the Kent County Council elections and we will be fighting for every seat. We have a full set of candidates."

Labour's hopes of cashing in on the apparent disillusionment with the Coalition partners failed to materialise into many seats in Kent, however.

They gained just one seat in Tunbridge Wells – where a third of the seats were up for grabs – bringing their total to just two in the chamber.

Meanwhile, in Maidstone, there were no shocks, with the Tories taking 41 per cent of the total votes cast. Labour did get one councillor, however, its first there for four years.

ELECTED

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Conservative – 37 seats
Liberal Democrats – 5
Labour – 2
Ukip – 2
Independents – 2

Maidstone Borough Council
Conservatives – 30 seats
Lib Dems – 19
Labour – 1
Independents – 5



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FLOWER POWER: From left: Jo Thompson's garden A Celebration of Caravanning. Petra – Tranquility set in stone will include plants grown in the county

CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Garden of England shows off its talent at Chelsea

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DESIGNERS and plants from the Garden of England will be some of the stars at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

This month the world's most famous flower show will include 16 show gardens to marvel at, by some of the finest contemporary designers.

A Celebration of Caravanning was designed by Jo Thompson, from Marden, for the Caravan Club, to evoke the very best of what a break in Britain means. The garden uses a team from Japan to set it up after it was debuted in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Holidaying in the UK is enjoying a resurgence, and to inspire visitors to consider caravans, a 1950s aluminium structure named Doris will form the focal feature of this garden. The design shows how a caravan can be part of your garden as a summerhouse or playhouse as well as an affordable way to holiday.

The show garden uses a palette of pink and cream planting including salvias and irises, as well as Wealden sandstone paths and timber walkways over running water to convey the delights of a touring holiday at home.

Also from Kent is the World Vision Garden designed by John Warland from Tonbridge and Sim Flemons of Flemons Warland Design Ltd.

A ripple pool at the centre of the garden represents the effect this children's charity has in the world's hardest places, with ripples spreading from the middle of the pool to its edge, showing how World Vision's work with children also helps families, communities and, ultimately, entire countries.

Mr Warland said: "A winding labyrinth path will invite visitors to become part of the ripple where, at the centre, children are at the heart of everything World Vision does.

"Walls surround this conceptual garden and sub-tropical Australian tree ferns offer the pool shelter, representing World Vision's work protecting the world's most vulnerable children."

Colchester-based Global Stone Paving gets all its plants from Dartford, and its garden, Petra – Tranquility set in stone, is inspired by the gardens of Capability Brown, with a 21st-century twist.

It is designed as a garden in its most natural form, and re-creates woodland, coppice and wildflower meadow environments. Even the futuristic furniture and table look natural and are seamlessly integrated into the overall design.

Brookfield Plants, from Ashford, will have its 12ft circular floral display in the marquee. Company boss Paul Harris said: "We are displaying a range of increasingly popular hostas, including new and British-raised ones.

"This will have a display of hostas, inspired by nature. It will be created utilising materials collected from the owner's garden nursery and the surrounding area to create an ecologically sustainable display.

"The exhibit will be made up of plants and materials that are either freely available or can be grown without any special conditions and their hope is that visitors will be inspired to recreate similar displays in their gardens at home."

On the trade stands will be Black Forge Art, from Bethersden, which produces handmade English hardwood rocking horses. Ferrari, Aston Martin and the Royal Hospital Chelsea are among their customers requiring bespoke horses.

And award-winning garden designer and broadcaster Andy Sturgeon has created a garden inspired by Arts and Crafts houses and gardens, including Sissinghurst Castle, and William's Morris' Red House in Bexleyheath.

Chelsea Flower Show runs from May 22-26, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. See www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea for more information.

HORTICULTURE

Russian art blooms into life

LEADING horticulturalists are hoping their relationship with Russia will blossom after using St Petersburg as the inspiration for a garden design at this year's Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

The Twig Group, based in Goudhurst, was selected to design and build the St Petersburg Russian Museum Garden for the event, reflecting the colour and splendour of the world's largest collection of Russian art.

The design, which is sponsored by the museum, recreates some of the 400,000 exhibits within the 13 museum buildings.

The company has asked grower Blooming Green Flowers in Linton to provide the flowers.

The Hampton Court show takes place from July 3-8 and hosts the world's largest garden displays covering a total of 34 acres.

Twig's designer, Heather Appleton, said: "It is a huge privilege to create a show garden sponsored by one of the world's greatest museums, located in one of the world's most impressive cities.

"I visited the Russian Museum last year and was inspired by its displays of amazing art from the 10th to the 21st centuries.

"I want to transplant some of that wonder to our show garden and reflect the vibrancy and the variety of the exhibits, as well as spur people on to take a trip to St Petersburg and be wowed, just as I was."

Jennifer Stuart-Smith and Rebekah Bibby own Blooming Green Flowers at Loddington Farm, Linton.

Ms Stuart-Smith, 35, said: "Twig wanted to use proper British suppliers and we are British and Kentish.

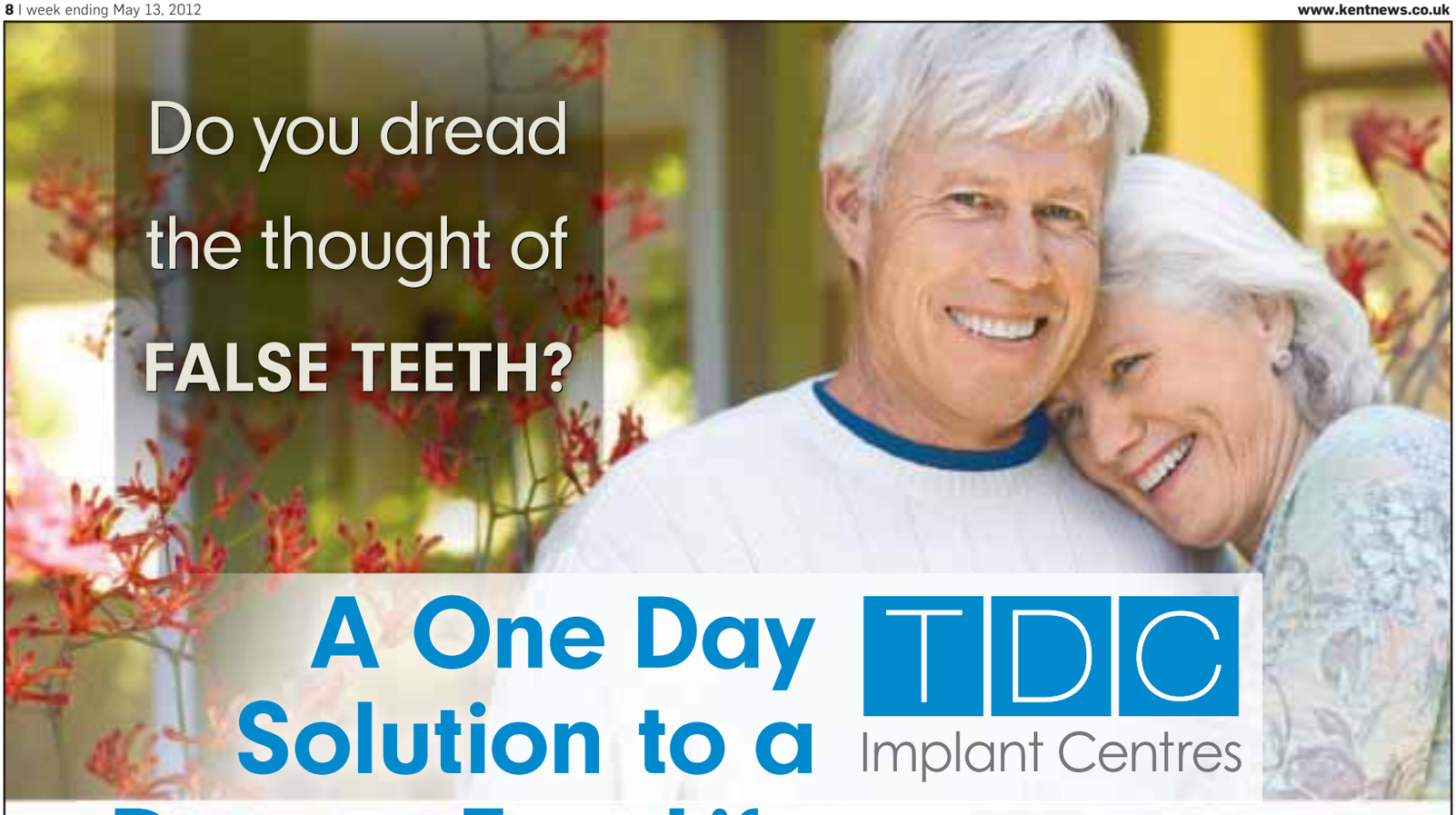
"They explained the whole concept to us and we couldn't say no to such a good opportunity. I am so excited to be taking part."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



GROWING: Bek Bibby, left, and Jen Stuart-Smith, right, from Blooming Green, with Miranda Eyre, director of the Twig Group



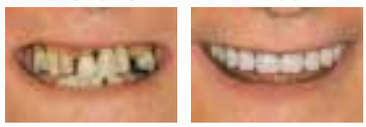


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HEALTH

NHS report dismissing birth defects rate as 'average' angers mums

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A GROUP of Northfleet mothers whose children were all born with a rare stomach condition have reacted with anger to an offical report which refutes their claims of a 'cluster' of cases.

In fact, the report says the nine cases of gastroschisis in and around Waterdales corresponds to national averages. Yet, there were five cases just in the road, Waterdales.

The mothers are so angry with the claim they are appealing to mums whose children suffered the same anomaly to come forward, confidentially, if necessary.

The story is all the more complex because records are not properly kept of cases involving gastroschisis, particularly if a pregnancy has been terminated.

Those suffering gastroschisis have part of their bowel protruding from their stomach, and the condition affects around one in 7,000 births.

An NHS report from Meradin Peachey, Kent's director of health, said the frequency of cases is "within normal levels".

She added the rate of gastroschisis in Gravesend between 1996 and 2011 was close to the national average, and the "statistical analysis of the rates show this is what we would expect to see due to gastroschisis being a relatively rare condition".

The mothers' spokeswoman is Sonia Dalton, whose baby Mikka, now three, was born with the condition.

Theories to explain for the birth defects include the weedkiller herbicide atrazine in the water supply, and something dangerous buried in a nearby former landfill site which is now a public area.

The maker of the weedkiller denies all suggestions it is even remotely responsible.

Ms Dalton said: "I have seen this report and it's nonsense. If we were average, you would be getting five cases in every street in the country.

"Perhaps there are, and we just don't hear about it because no records are being kept, let alone analysed.

"That is why I have set up a Facebook appeal for mothers who have delivered babies with this condition to get in touch.



ILL: Sonia Dalton's baby Mikka, now three, was born suffering from the rare condition gastroschisis

"It is a terrible thing to endure, and those that have got in touch don't want to go public yet, but I was surprised to get a few almost immediately from the Medway towns."

Ms Dalton said she questions the methods of statistical analysis done by Ms Peachey and called for the findings to be assessed again.

The report said: "The difference (comparing Waterdales with others areas) is not statistically significant, which means it is within normal levels of variation."

And in conclusion it said no public health actions needed to be taken and there were no specific risks to women in the area who are pregnant.

Gravesham Tory MP Adam Holloway said: "To say this is not a cluster does not make logical sense. I have not heard of any from any other roads, although I am sure there have been some.

"The woman who did this report has agreed to go back and look at it again and we are having another meeting later in the year, so we will see what happened then."

■ **Anyone who wants to get in touch with Sonia Dalton about their case can email her at doristella@hotmail.co.uk.**

ARMED FORCES

Parade will honour town's military heroes

THE Maidstone Civic and Freedom Parade will be on May 20, at 11am, to support the town's troops and mark the start of the mayoral year of Cllr Rodd Nelson-Gracie. Taking part will be the Corps of Royal Engineers Band, 20 Field Squadron, 50 Field Squadron, 69 Gurkha Field Support Squadron, 70 Gurkha Field Support Squadron, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Workshop attached to 36 Engineer Regiment.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire chief plea as crews head to Olympic Games

FIRE chiefs have insisted Kent will not suffer any lack of emergency cover this summer as its teams find themselves drawn into the preparations for the London 2012 Olympic Games. But KFRS's Steve Griffiths said: "There is no doubt that the community should also be prepared and we call upon Kent 's residents, businesses and visitors, to ensure they take steps to prevent fire so we can all support a safe 2012 Games."





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News

DEVELOPMENT

Consultation planned on Fort Halstead proposals

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk



FUTURE: Plans are being drawn up for the Fort Halstead site

FUTURE plans for the former military research centre at Fort Halstead are to go out to consultation – with the owner of the site keen to "safeguard its economic role" in the town.

The Sevenoaks site is home to Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), which is part of the Ministry of Defence, and QinetiQ, a private defence technology company.

Together, they employ around 1,200 people at the site.

The MoD confirmed in 2010 that following a review of its operation it would be shutting DSTL – a decision spelling the end of more than 840 jobs.

DSTL will be relocating to Porton Down and Portsdown West by 2017.

This will leave the majority of the buildings at Fort Halstead vacant, which the new owner wants to see at the heart of a redevelopment scheme.

In 2005 Armstrong Kent LLP, a joint venture led by Deutsche Bank's real estate arm RREEF and Hines UK, purchased the site from private defence company QinetiQ.

Armstrong Kent LLP spokesman Stephen Roberts, said: "It is essential that a long-term plan is in place to secure the future of Fort Halstead and safeguard its role in the heritage and economy of the area.

"The challenge we now face is to deliver a sustainable, balanced solution for the site that combines employment space with other uses.

"We will adopt a fresh approach, recognising the proposals brought forward for the site in 2010 failed to achieve the appropriate scale of development.

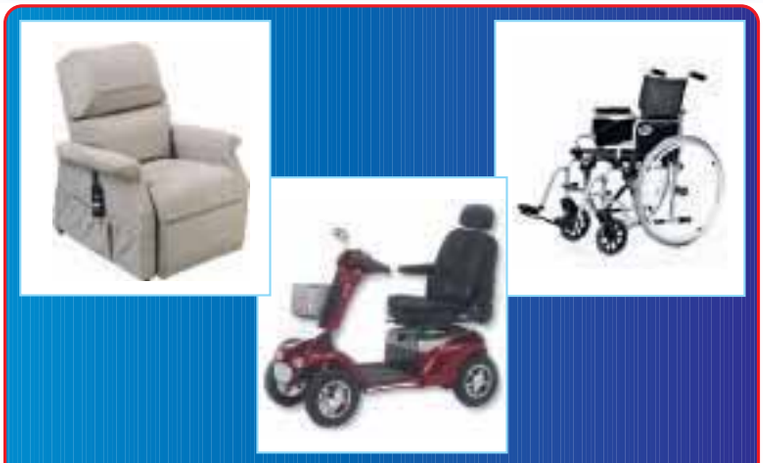
"As part of this, we are fully committed to working with the community at every stage of the design process."

The company will host the public events on: Thursday, May 17, 10am-2pm, Donnington Manor Hotel, Dunton Green; 3-7pm, Knockholt Village Centre, Knockholt; and Friday May 18,, 10am-2pm, Otford Village Memorial Hall, Otford; 4-8pm, Halstead Pavilion, Halstead.

Armstrong Kent will be working to create a development brief for Fort Halstead, in consultation with Sevenoaks District Council, later this year.

■ **More news and sport at www.yoursevenoaks.co.uk.**

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News







WILD THINGS: Samuel Ault's (1) A Mother's Love and (2) Hunter's Gaze; Jan Morgan's Nature's Finest (3) and Marlowe (7) uses bronze and wood; (4) Bill Prickett's Octopus was made from birch plywood; Sevina Yates created Monch (5); artist Robina Yasmin's work Kesi (6) was created using oil paints

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for more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.







EXHIBITION

‘Exceptional’ artists make shortlist for prestigious animal art award

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE astonishing work of several Kent wildlife artists has been so well received they will hang in a smart London gallery alongside pieces from the famed British artist and conservationist David Shepherd.

The Mall Gallery will be the temporary resting place for some truly amazing works of art depicting animals including elephants, zebras and even an octopus made from birch plywood.

They have been shortlisted for the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation’s 2012 Wildlife Artist of the Year exhibition later this month.

The artists, among 150 hopefuls, are Samuel Ault from Erith; Robina Yasmin from Rochester; Sevina Yates from Sheerness; and sculptors, Bill Prickett from Sittingbourne, and Jan Morgan from Strood.

Jan, 43, said he was delighted to be on the shortlist, and added: “In my work I’m aiming to create sculpture that can be understood in a very direct way. ”

Thirty nine-year-old Sevina said: “It means a great deal to be part of an exhibition that does so much to protect wildlife round the world.

“Mountains are my muse and I find endless inspiration in them.”

And Bill, 46, said: “It sounds very clichéd, but I always wanted to work with animals, so when, at the age of 17, I was offered a job at Windsor Safari Park as a dolphin trainer I jumped at the chance. This led to various other animal-based jobs and expeditions around the world.

“These experiences started an ongoing relationship with animals and the natural world, and are the major inspiration for my work.”

Shepherd launched the art competition in 2008, to raise funds and awareness for endangered wildlife.

He said: “The shortlisted entries from Kent have been quite exceptional this year. From the judges’ point of view the drama and technical excellence in all the work was quite breathtaking.”



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HEALTH

Remarkable teenage stroke victim ensuring others see warning signs

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHILE most teenagers worry about exams and the latest fashions – Amber Garland was learning to live again after suffering a series of strokes so devastating her mother was told the teen was going to die.

It happened in 2009, and the MidKent College student is still refusing to be beaten.

In fact, now 21, she is so full of fight she is planning awareness-raising events to ensure others recognise the warning signs.

Amber, from Gillingham, had to learn to speak again and get the feeling back in her limbs.

And despite all this she is still keeping up with music and fashion.

She said: "In 2008, I was studying psychology at university in Southampton. A year on in August, 2009, I suffered severe multiple strokes.

"I was rushed to Kings Hospital to have part of my skull removed to relieve the pressure of swelling on my brain. I have no memory of the week before having the strokes.

"My mum was told my recovery was unlikely, and if so would be with severe physical and mental difficulties.

"I gradually recognised my family, which was the start of recovery. I was at Kings for two weeks then went to Medway Maritime for two months where I learned to swallow and nod, and start moving limbs.

"I had lost my dominant right side which I have not regained use of since.

"I went to the rehab centre at Sevenoaks for speech and language help plus physio, and then to the Queen Elizabeth Foundation brain injury centre in Banstead for a year of intense rehab.

"I learned to walk, write, had occupational therapy, physio, psychology, speech and language, art and design as well as lots of leisure activities to lead as normal life as possible.



LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL: Amber Garland was just 19 when she suffered multiple strokes while at university

"I was there for a year and finally came home March, 2011. In May, 2011, I won an achievement award from the QEF centre and went to London to receive my medal.

"The continued support from the Medway stroke team and care managers and the Stroke Association is still improving my progression to be the best that I can be. Speech, reading and writing is most difficult – the stroke left me with aphasia (an impairment of language ability), and I have to wear a leg splint so I can walk.

"In September, 2011, I started at MidKent College doing an art and design course which I enjoy, I do trampolining, go bowling, go to the gym, pictures and things like that."

Amber, added: "I'm motivated and determined to live my life and get on with it. There's no point moping around.

"Apparently I had been suffering with migraines and collapsed a week before my stroke, but I don't remember anything before waking up in hospital.

"Strokes are normally associated with old people, but I was only 19 when it happened to me."

"That's why I want to raise awareness, to make sure others recognise the warning signs.

"I was also very shy before it happened, but I'm not now."



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HEALTH

Winston sings praises of music for mental health

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THOSE suffering with mental health problems can benefit from music and singing, according to new research.

The Octavia Project was put together by the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT). Using EU Grundtvig funding, it sent staff to speak with counterparts in Spain and Slovenia, and hosted a visit to Kent.

After two years of multiple trips a conference is now being held to assess findings.

Television presenter Lord Robert Winston – chairman of the Royal College of Music, and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences – is to deliver a keynote speech at Canterbury Cathedral during a conference on the project on Thursday, May 17.

Attending will be representatives from many of the partners involved to develop a best practice guide to implementing singing and music as a wellbeing strategy.

UK-based groups involved have been Sing for Your Life and the Canterbury-based Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Music, Arts and Health.

Staff from countries including Finland, Italy, Slovenia and Spain have also taken part.

The project focused on the health and wellbeing benefits of music, particularly for those with mental health issues.

The conference will be an opportunity to influence national and local funders and commissioners of music and the arts as therapy, and KMPT hopes this will ensure ongoing support.

KMPT said: "The demand for mental health services is increasing at a higher rate than that of the general population. It is currently estimated one in 100 people suffer from a severe mental illness, but this is rising.

"There has been a huge increase in mental health clients in recent years and by 2016 there will be more than 1,700 extra people known to us with a severe mental illness."



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Lord Robert Winston will attend

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NATURE

Expert group vows to kill off foreign invader weed



KILLING FIELDS: Blight of Japanese knotweed

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A WEED from the other side the world is being told to get knotted after a group was set up just to banish it from the Kent countryside.

The Japanese knotweed is strangling native flora, and is regarded as a major pest.

Now Property Care Association (PCA) has launched a new group dedicated to its removal and control. It is working with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Japanese knotweed control companies to develop the Invasive Weed Control Group.

And it has been welcomed by the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Protect Kent.

A spokesman said: "It is not native to Britain and we would welcome any moves to eliminate it from the countryside where it does tremendous damage. It can destroy entire hedgerows and pretty much any plants in the open. It basically strangles other plant life until they die out.

"It would be great for something to be done to finally get it under control. I don't think Kent is suffering any more than any other part of the country, but it is a problem."

He said the plant is native to eastern Asia and could have been brought to the UK by people who liked the look of it, but were not aware of its destructive qualities. It is highly invasive and it's illegal to plant knotweed.

The weed can also damage buildings by burrowing into brickwork and needs to be poisoned before being disposed of at licensed landfills.

Stephen Hodgson, general manager of the PCA, said: "For several months, the PCA has been working with sections of the Japanese knotweed control industry to provide representation, accreditation and trade association services.

"Ultimately this work has drawn together a set of standards that will ensure consumers in Kent can identify companies – through the PCA – that have the skills, infrastructure, knowledge and integrity to eliminate this troublesome weed properly and cost-effectively.

"Our role as an established trade body, with a reputation for high standards, ensures a recognised and effective route for the delivery of this work."

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■ A "HIGHLY respected" councillor and former school teacher, who served on Ashford Borough Council for nearly 10 years, has died suddenly.

Cllr Peter Goddard passed away on May 6. He was 73. He was first elected for the Tories in the Tenterden South ward in 2003 and served there ever since.

He also served as chairman of the licensing and health and safety committee, and was chairman of the taxi forum.

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EDUCATION

£5m funding paves way for generation of musical youths

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT has been handed more than £5 million to revolutionise the way young people are taught music.

Two music education hubs will be created in the county thanks to the generous cash handout from the Arts Council of England.

They are part of a national network of 122 hubs which will play a key role in ensuring every child has the opportunity to experience a high-quality music education.

Medway Council received £889,865, and Kent Music has been allocated £4.5m. The hubs will be in place from August and will begin from September.

The aim of the project is to ensure every child aged five to 18 has the opportunity to sing and learn a musical instrument and progress to their next level. They can play with other children as part of an ensemble or choir.

All primary schoolchildren, for example, will now have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, while older students will be able to enjoy programmes and projects across a wide range of music styles, which could include working with top professional musicians.

Activity for students will be both in and out of school.

Kent Music began in 1948, and now provides instrumental and vocal teaching to more than 14,000 students while employing 200 full and part-time peripatetic teachers, and organising music groups and summer schools.

Its bid was based on a partnership with Kent County Council, schools, academies, universities and music organisations. Medway Council's allocation is awarded separately.

Kent Music's chief executive Peter Bolton said: "This is an incredibly exciting approach which will enable those dedicated to music education to work in partnership engaging young people in a way never achieved before."

He said the project was unveiled last autumn by the Department for Education and introduces a new formula allocating funds per pupil with a top-up based on children receiving free school meals.

The grant is worth £4.5m over three years, creating eight new jobs.

Mr Bolton said: "We have a long and successful history of delivering music education services, and will be creating many new initiative projects.

"The funding will allow us to reach every child in our hub area, enriching the opportunities open to them.

"I'd like to thank all those who have helped with our bidding process and look forward to their continued support as we move ahead in creating the hub."

■ **For more information on Kent Music visit www.kent-music.com.**



SOUND INVESTMENT: All the county's children will have musical opportunities

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ENTERTAINMENT

Castle to welcome Military Wives choir as part of spectacular open-air concert

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk





PITCHING IN: The Military Wives choir are spouses of soldiers in the Army, and will perform at Leeds Castle Open Air Classical Concert

THE Military Wives choir, who had a surprise Christmas number one hit, are coming to Kent.

The singers, made up of wives of soldiers fighting in Afghanistan, will be performing at Leeds Castle.

The group were formed last year by BBC Two reality show The Choir, and now they are performing to packed houses around the UK.

The wives' choir will be at the Open Air Classical Concert on Saturday, July 14.

Organisers say the event will be far more than simply a concert – there will be a diverse classical orchestral programme, interwoven with specially selected choral and solo pieces, plus the visual spectacle of military musicians, field guns, fireworks and iconic aircraft displays.

A spokesman said: "This is a spectacular signature event unique to Leeds Castle."

Choir master Gareth Malone put together the Military Wives' Choir, and they won the race to reach the Christmas number one slot beating rival acts such as X Factor winners Little Mix.

Their song Wherever You Are was made up of lines from the wives' love letters to their husbands in Afghanistan and captured the hearts of the nation.

The choir's rise to the top has seen an extraordinary few months for the 100-strong choir from Devon, that has seen them perform for royalty, dignitaries and celebrities.

The day's narrator will be Chris Hollins. The former Tonbridge School pupil was the main sports reporter on BBC Breakfast, and won Strictly Come Dancing in 2009.

Also on the bill is British soprano Claire Rutter, who has performed for the English National Opera and is currently in the leading role of Verdi's Aida, at the Royal Albert Hall.

The outdoor event at Leeds Castle also sees the return of conductor John Rigby, and includes performances by leading tenor Wynne Evans, the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, and Capital Voices will perform songs by Queen.

A castle spokesman said: "The dynamic conductor and orchestra partnership promises to provide an exceptional and diverse musical repertoire, accompanied by spectacles such as air display by nostalgic aircraft such as the Spitfire."

The concert site opens 4pm, live music is from 5pm, and the main concert begins at 7.30pm.

Tickets are on sale now at the early-bird price of £34 each for picnic style, and £44 each in the seated areas and can be bought online at www.heritageevents.co.uk.

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News

CRIME

Smugglers tried to avoid £1m tax on six million cigarettes

TWO men have been jailed for attempting to smuggling almost six million cigarettes into the UK and cheat the taxman out of more than £1 million.

George Blackburn, 47, was arrested on January 8, 2010, after the lorry he was driving was stopped by UK Border Agency officials, as he arrived at Dover on a ferry from Calais.

Paperwork provided by Blackburn, of Third Avenue, East Church, Sheerness, showed there were 41 pallets of onions in the trailer, but a search found almost six million CT Gold cigarettes hidden in cardboard boxes.

The duty evaded on the cigarettes was £1,019,118.10.

An investigation by HM Revenue & Customs uncovered evidence that linked Naythen Smith, 46, from Mangravat Avenue, Maidstone, to the smuggling attempt.

Lorry driver Smith, had travelled on the same ferry as Blackburn, and phone records showed they were in contact throughout the trip to Belgium.





JAIL: Blackburn (top) and Smith

At Maidstone Crown Court, both men pleaded guilty to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of duty chargeable on tobacco products.

Blackburn received three years and nine months imprisonment, and Smith three years behind bars.

Martin Brown, assistant director, criminal investigation for HMRC said: "The motivation of Blackburn and Smith was pure greed. Had the smuggling attempt been successful it would have deprived the Exchequer of more than £1m.

"This tax is essential to fund public services and any shortfall would have to be made up by honest taxpayers.

"These sentences will send a message to anyone involved in this type of crime, we are determined to find and bring to justice those people who think they can break the law. Tobacco fraud costs taxpayers more than £2 billion a year, undercutting honest businesses."

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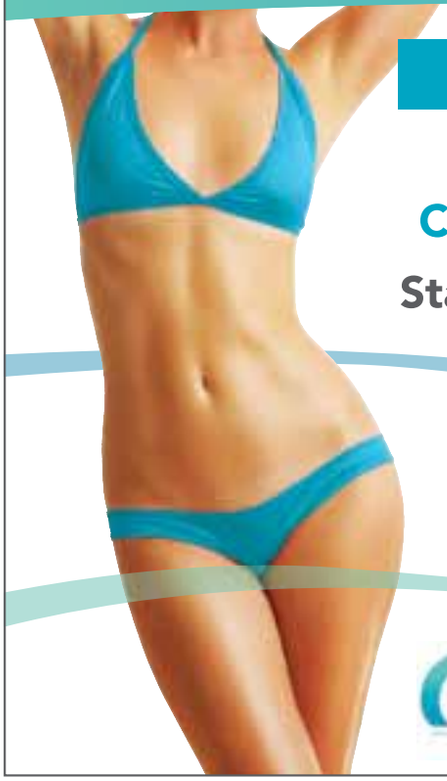
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News

HERITAGE

Plaque honours man who directed The Few to victory

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE man who guided The Few to victory in the Battle of Britain has been remembered with a special plaque on the front of his Kent home.

As head of Fighter Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding (pictured) knew he was up against formidable odds, but careful planning meant his outnumbered squadrons defeated the incoming waves of the Luftwaffe.

The Battle of Britain in 1940, was a turning point in World War Two. Yet Sir Hugh, whose nickname was 'Stuffy' was forced to retire from the post just a year later.

When the war ended, Lord Dowding, as he became, lived at 5 Darnley Drive, Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, between 1951-67, and the Southborough Society wanted to mark the building's historical importance.

Ian Kinghorn, the society's secretary, said: "The Southborough Society decided to commemorate notable former residents of the town by erecting plaques on the houses where they lived, in the same style as the London blue plaques scheme.

"This year we will be releasing eight plaques, unarguably the most nationally famous person commemorated on our plaques is Lord Dowding.

"Although he later moved to Tunbridge Wells, he only lived there for a couple years before his death and it is known that he always consider the house in Southborough as his real home.

"We were honoured to be able to get Lady Odette Dowding, Lord Dowding's daughter-in-law, who had visited and stayed at the property on many occasions to unveiled the green Southborough Society plaque at his former home.

"After the unveiling Lady Dowding was given a private tour of the house which she had not visited since 1967. To honour Lord Dowding's RAF connections we had the Tunbridge Wells branch of the RAF Association in attendance with their standard."

Lord Dowding was partially responsible for the creating of the famed Battle of Britain fighters the Hurricane and Spitfire, which he insisted were put in to production.

He was also involved in the evolution of early warning radar systems. Ron Sawyer, from the RAF Association said of Dowding: "His planning was absolutely superb."



■ **More news at www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk.**

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TRANSPORT

New variable speed limits on M25 'to ease crossing jams'

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Kent stretch of the M25 now has variable speed limits.

The Highways Agency claimed it will help alleviate snarl ups near Dartford during rush hour.

The road approaching the Dartford crossing is notorious for long jams thanks in part to the constant stopping of vehicles to pay tolls.

Now the variable limits, which will be below 70mph, will be in place between junction two at Darenth and junction three for Swanley following a 2009 consultation.

The Agency said drivers will see improved journey time reliability and road safety thanks to the new mandatory variable speed limits.

It said it will now be able to manage traffic flow during periods of peak congestion, or following an incident, by varying speed limits to smooth out traffic and reduce the risk of further collisions.

John Martin, Highways Agency senior project manager, said: "The controlled motorway system will bring great benefits to road users on this busy section of the M25 – helping to reduce congestion and make road users' journeys safer and more reliable by smoothing traffic flows.

"This system is already being used successfully in other areas, including the western section of the M25 near Heathrow and on the M20 between junctions four and seven in Kent.

"On the M25, where the system has been in place since 1995, it has reduced collisions by 10 per cent and provided the benefit of smoother, more reliable journeys at peak times.

"In addition, an overall reduction in vehicle emissions of between two and eight per cent has been recorded on the M25."

Contrary to popular belief, the speeds are not randomly operated by someone in a control room. Sensors are embedded in the road surface to measure traffic flow and speed.

Computers are then used to calculate the more efficient speed to keep traffic moving at a steady rate rather than induce repeated start-stops which quickly leads to jams.

The new limits started on Wednesday, with drivers being informed of the current speed limit by it appearing in a red circle signs on overhead gantries,.

The limits are legally enforceable and Kent Police can use speed cameras in these zones.

CRIME

Asbo for messy drunk

A 36-year-old man has been banned from drinking in public for two years after an Asbo was slapped on him by Medway magistrates. Stephen Brierley, of no fixed abode, was given the Asbo after the bench was told he regularly drank, begged, urinated and defecated in the town centre. The court heard he had a "massively detrimental" impact on people in Chatham.

POLITICS

Williams pays tribute

BARONESS Shirley Williams has made a visit to Kent to pay a glowing tribute to long-time Lib Dem councillor Michael Dixey, who has represented Harbledown ward on Canterbury City Council since 1987. Baroness Williams said: "It is people like Michael, who give willingly of their time in order to represent their local communities, who are the bedrock of our nation."





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KENT **REMEMBERED**





SYMBOL: King Richard I's first step back on English soil after release from prison were at the Cinque Port

Sandwich's lost role in crusader king's return

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT has been the location for any number of royal visits throughout the centuries, but few can have been as dramatic for the country as the one on March 14, 1194.

The quayside at Sandwich was the setting King Richard the Lionheart's first steps back on English soil – ransomed from captivity at a cost to the English taxpayers of a sum equivalent to £2 billion in today's money – and absent for more than three years.

Although Richard is one of history's most iconic kings – his statue stands outside the Houses of Parliament – not much is known of his arrival at the Cinque Port.

One of the few references in print is in the 1792 edition of the Boy's Collection of Material for an History of Sandwich which states: "He proceeded on foot to Canterbury to return thanks to God and St Thomas for his deliverance."

Richard was crowned on Sunday, September 9, 1189, in Westminster Abbey, but famously spent little time in England, preferring to be in France when not fighting to recapture Jerusalem from Muslim forces.

His crusade started just three months after his coronation when he sailed from Dover, and after a winter in Sicily and the conquest of Cyprus, he arrived in the Holy Land.

Despite military success he failed in his object of seizing



Jerusalem, although a truce with Islamic leader Saladin did allow for trade and access to the city for pilgrims.

Meanwhile his brother John was creating trouble in England and Richard's return in 1192 was fraught with difficulties. A storm separated his ship from the fleet and he was forced to make his way home by land.

Richard had already upset King Philip of France by refusing to marry his sister and although both were on the crusade they did not get on.

Wary of being captured, he took another route hoping to reach territory held by his ally Duke Henry the Lion of Saxony.

But this meant negotiating the lands of Duke Leopold of Austria, another crusader, whom Richard had also angered by ordering his banner to be thrown down from the battlements of the captured city of Acre.

The story goes he was discovered while roasting some meat on a spit in Vienna, when his disguise as a servant was given away by a magnificent ring on his finger.

The duke in turn informed his lord Emperor Henry VI, but when taken before the monarch Richard refused to show deference and declared to him: "I am born of a rank which recognises no superior but God."

The emperor and duke demanded that 150,000 marks be delivered to them before they would release Richard – almost three times the annual income for the English crown

Richard's mother Eleanor of Aquitaine worked to raise the ransom and both clergy and laymen were taxed for a quarter of the value of their property, gold and silver treasures of the churches were confiscated, and money was raised from taxes.

At the same time, John and King Philip offered 80,000 marks for the emperor to continue to hold Richard prisoner, but he refused.

Instead the money was transferred to Germany by the emperor's ambassadors, but "at the king's peril" – had it been lost along the way, Richard would have been held responsible – and finally, on February 4, 1194 Richard was released.

Philip sent a message to John: "Look to yourself; the devil is loose."

But after securing his throne, Richard spent little time in England and five years later died in an obscure campaign in France after he was struck by a crossbow bolt and gangrene set in.

■ **More news and sport at www.yoursandwich.co.uk.**





OPINION

Standing and really delivering

Medway's new Labour leader Cllr **Vince Maple** promises a break with the old way of doing things, and to rebuild the public's trust in politics...

I HAD the great honour of being elected the youngest Labour group leader in the South East last week.

One of the things I want to really focus on here in Medway is the matter of rebuilding trust in politics.

Over the past few years a number of scandals have tainted the name of politics: be it MPs' expenses in Westminster; the relationship between senior politicians and the Murdoch press; or the recent issue of the Tory treasurer offering access to the Prime Minister over a cosy dinner for a quarter of a million pounds.

All of these things – often just one or two individuals rather than the political system as a whole – continue to give politics a bad name.

Another reason why people have lost trust is because election promises simply seem to mean nothing.

The most obvious example being the Liberal Democrats' promise to abolish tuition fees.

A number of Lib Dem candidates were very happy to be filmed for YouTube saying "we will scrap tuition fees" – only a few months later to help treble them for a shot at power.

Though the other half of the Coalition are equally guilty, saying unequivocally throughout the 2010 general election campaign there would be no top-down reorganisation of the NHS.

But in less than two years they have passed a bill which has – despite mass opposition from the public and health professionals alike – led to just such a top-down reorganisation, and one that will cost taxpayers across Kent and Medway £3 billion.

Here in Medway, the local Tories stood on a platform last year of no cuts to frontline services, yet surprise, surprise, we see the complete opposite; care homes, libraries and bereavement services being slashed.

Again, election promises being broken and manifestos being seen as meaningless.

So, how do we change this?

Well, part of it has to do with public engagement. For too long, too many people have said politicians don't listen, and that they lie, and when you see the examples I have just mentioned, you can understand why people feel that way.

But I think people involved in politics need to show there can be a different approach; where engagement is real and meaningful, where people feel part of a process and that decisions are made with them, not despite them.

That's not to say sometimes difficult decisions don't have to be made, but even then local residents should feel that they have been listened to.

And, if decisions are made which they don't completely support, they can understand the reasons why.



For too long, too many people have said politicians don't listen

Instead the Government, both locally and nationally, seem content on compiling an ever-growing list of examples where that simply isn't happening, where people feel their voice counts for nothing.

It is also about not promising the earth when in opposition, and hoping residents don't catch on when in government we fail to deliver.

I want to be in a position in 2015 when Medway votes on its local and national government, that people are not saying "you are all the same", that people can see the real alternatives, that they can see my Labour team are working hard to show that people can start to put their trust back into politics.

It will not be an easy task, but it is one we will work towards together as strongly as possible.

KOS COMMENT

Join us in our fight against estuary airport

TODAY we officially joined the ranks of the thousands of people opposing plans for a giant hub airport in the Thames Estuary.

And now we're asking you, our readers, to join us in the fight. Even if you don't live in north Kent, a giant airport will have an impact, whether it is an increase in traffic or the rise in air pollution. And for those who think they may escape this, it shouldn't matter, for now is the time for us to join together – east, west, north and south – and stop our beautiful county being blighted by a monstrosity, which will not only damage the lives of people, but destroy an internationally important nature site. This is the Garden of England and we need to keep it that way.

Surprises at election

THE shock election result in Tunbridge Wells has no doubt shaken the Tory party.

And the surprise victory of Ukip over the Tory leader has perhaps given smaller parties hope of future victory. In these times nothing is certain and this could be a sign of what's yet to come.





Brenchley
by Laura Jeffery
from Staplehurst

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Country needs leadership

POLITICIANS and growth of economy have become inseparable – here, in Europe and in America.

This confirms that it is the taxation and income side of balance sheets that politicians are concentrating on.

Yet most of their efforts produce more red tape and overheads for those trying to lay golden eggs.

Surely it is time to adopt normal family household bookkeeping and stop spending.

This is especially relevant locally where only urgent infrastructure improvements should be contemplated.

What local politicians could do with the money spent on European membership or the loans to Ireland and the IMF – which the 'posh boys' justify by stating "that it is the right thing to do".

The 'right thing' could be to withdraw and cancel the inflation proof pensions paid to retired European Commissioners who knowingly continued the European adventure despite individual countries not financially qualifying for their membership.

Continue the present course and unemployment will rise with a generation of unemployed youth decaying the English way of life.

It is time for politicians to address and stop diverting our money into national expenditure and cease meddling and regulating every facet of our lives. The county needs leadership, not career politicians who are intent on scaling the greasy political pole and who have little or no experience of creating wealth.

Edward La Coste, Lamberhurst

Time for silent reflection

I WAS appalled at the arrogant and pompous letter written by Janet Berridge in last week's paper, in which she had the effrontery to criticise the Rev Paul Kirby's reported remarks to this newspaper on the murder of a member of his family in Norway by Anders Behring Breivik.

Why Ms Berridge thinks she has the insight or intelligence to write in such a way on such an appalling event I cannot begin to speculate, but I think a period of silent reflection is called for, followed by an apology to Paul Kirby.

Philip Bell, by email

Turn around this thinking

I UNDERSTAND the threat posed by climate change, and I support action to tackle it, but I think the use of onshore wind turbines needs to be carefully controlled in order to avoid damage to the countryside we are seeking to protect.

Many people in Kent are worried about the huge increase in applications for wind turbines, and I am concerned many of these proposals are made by energy companies that don't pay enough attention to local concerns and want to site turbines at inappropriate locations.

The current situation is undermining confidence in the planning system and fails to support people who are keen to tackle climate change, but do not want to sacrifice our beautiful landscapes.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) recently published a report recommending a new approach to onshore wind that makes sense. They want the Government to have a more strategic approach to where turbines go, and for this to be more sensitive to the landscape – with local people having a greater say in what renewable energy they think is best in their area.

I have written to our MP through the CPRE website, www.cpre.org.uk, calling for strong leadership on this matter and would encourage other readers to do the same.

Guy Sharrock, Hythe

Spelling out their message

"WE are in drought", says a South East Water advert in your newspaper.

"Drought has destroyed everything here", says a request from Oxfam to "help change lives in Turkana, Kenya", where they have no water.

My concise Oxford English Dictionary says: Drought 'the continuous absence of rain'.

There may be a shortage of water in the South East, but not rain, nor water. The water authority is misusing the English language.

Similarly the police are a 'service', no longer a 'force', but they do enforce the law, and sometimes with force.

The Royal Mail has Parcel 'Force' when it delivers parcels.

This is all just like Lewis Carroll's Humpty Dumpty in Alice Through the Looking Glass. He said: "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean."

Denis Cobell, by email

It's time to end these parties

DAVID Cameron is wasting another five years not fixing the things we wanted fixed.

They just never learn; look at the council election results. What happened to family values, the 'bonfire' of the quangos, the end to 'cronyism and fat cat pay', 'human rights' for victims instead of criminals, an EU Referendum and all the other promises made to get elected?

This arrogant dilettante, along with his Labour and Lib Dem friends, have no interest in what we want them to do.

I hope at the next election we can have a clearout of Tory, Labour and Lib Dems, to replace them with democrats who will do what we ask.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Bullet service misses target

TERRY Hudson (Letters, April 15) is right when he says Kent County Council are wrong to keep subsidising the so called 'high-speed' train service.

In fact Kent will never get a decent fast rail service until these Japanese-built high-speed junk trains are scrapped.

All these trains do is get in the way of the proper service and take all the available power.

There are plenty of trains operating in other parts of the UK that would, if introduced to Kent, provide a far faster service and be significantly cheaper to run.

Steam trains used to take under one hour to get from Cannon Street to Whitstable, but despite billions spent on rail infrastructure these high-speed offerings take more than 80 minutes longer to reach the same destination.

This has been down to successive governmental interference and incompetent rail management.

One good thing is that recently there have been good ministers in charge of rail transport, notably, Lord Andrew Adonis and Theresa Villiers.

Sheikh Mihand, Sittingbourne Loonies

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ...WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



No say on pension that could ease debt woes



TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q I SET up a private pension plan in 1992, but I only paid into it until 2001, as I then got a job with a company that had its own pension scheme.

I lost that job through redundancy in 2010, and have been unemployed since. We now have debts of about £14,000, including mortgage arrears, but I have been told that I cannot cash in my old pension plan, even though we need it badly.

Is this right?

A THE pension statement you sent me shows that your plan is worth enough to pay off your debts and mortgage arrears, and leave a tidy bit over for you and your family as well.

But I am afraid the pension company is right. You are 46-years-old, and the normal legal age for drawing pension benefits is 55 or older.

On top of this, you can only take a quarter of your money in cash. The rest must be paid as a pension.

There are exceptions to the rule. For example, if you are terminally ill or have to retire early through ill health, you can make a claim under 55. But none of this helps you.

Because the Government wants us all to provide for our own old age, it makes it easy to invest in a pension plan, but hard to withdraw anything ahead of retirement.

Q I HAVE been offered voluntary redundancy and I would be grateful for advice about the tax position.

The redundancy payment would be about £50,000, less tax of £8,000.

Can you explain how the tax is calculated as it seems low to me?

On the other hand, if it is right, is there any way to get it even lower?

A THE first £30,000 of redundancy money is tax-free, which is why you would lose only £8,000 out of £50,000.

After deducting the exempt £30,000, you are left with £20,000 that is taxable.

It appears your employer is planning to tax this at 40pc. If you are a 40pc higher-rate taxpayer, this is correct.

But could you get the tax even lower? That depends on what you do next.

If your income drops because you are jobless, you could become a basic rate 20pc taxpayer. And if this happens, you could reclaim some of the £8,000 from the taxman.

Q I AM sending you a very strange email that I received, offering me a job as the USA representative of Dalston Mill Fabrics. The London company is selling wedding dresses to American customers and wants me to collect payments in return for 10pc commission on everything I collect.

It is obviously a shady deal, but I cannot work out how I could lose, as I have not been asked for any money.

A DALSTON Mill Fabrics does exist, and it is based in London. But the job dealing with American customers is pure fiction, which is why you are asked to reply by email to someone calling himself 'Paul Newman', and not to apply in writing in the usual way to the company itself.

Anyone who takes this job will find themselves caught up in criminal money laundering.

Money will land in their bank account, and they will assume it is from customers of Dalston Mill Fabrics, but in fact it will be stolen or possibly the proceeds of drug deals.

Mr Newman would then ask for the money – less 10pc commission – to be sent on to someone untraceable in another country.

So when the police swoop, the only person arrested will be the innocent intermediary who had allowed their bank account to be used.

Do not touch this job offer with a bargepole.

Q I AM self-employed, but pay tax and national insurance, and have done for the past eight years. Now I am six months pregnant and having to cut down on work, but I have found that my contributions do not entitle me to a penny in statutory maternity pay.

A MATERNITY pay comes from an employer – and your only employer is yourself, which is why it would not make sense for the law to tell you to pay yourself.

However, you are entitled to the maternity allowance, which is £135.45 a week or 90pc of your average earnings, paid for up to 39 weeks.

Call 0800 055 6688 for claim form MA1.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

Ensuring your will does protect your loved ones

Moves to regulate the will-writing industry should give more peace of mind to consumers. ADAM AIKEN reports.

THE writing of wills is set to be more closely monitored amid claims the industry suffers from "systemic problems" and "consistent patterns of sloppiness, simple errors and poor communication".

A proposal by the Legal Services Board (LSB) – the body that oversees legal services in England and Wales – would see all will-writing and estate-administration services regulated, in a bid to offer greater consumer protection.

The LSB said the problems within the industry often resulted in "unacceptable service", with some customers "subjected to unfair sales practices" and others the victims of "fraud and deception".

"Making a will is something everyone should do. It is one of the most important actions that individuals take," said LSB chairman David Edmonds.

"We all should have a degree of confidence in those entrusted with the task of writing our wills, advising us on the most appropriate actions, and ensuring that our wishes are carried out. The measures announced by the LSB should reassure consumers that they will be more effectively protected."

The proposal received a thumbs-up from the law sector, which has long warned about the risks of using unregulated will-writers.

"When there is a problem with a will, it is often not discovered until after death, at a time when the family are grieving and having to deal with the practicalities of managing the deceased's affairs," said Paula James, a partner at law firm Thomas Eggar.

"There is no obligation on unregulated will-writers to keep and produce, on the request of the family, information and files so that the deceased's intentions and the circumstances surrounding the will-making process can be investigated.

"Indeed, it can be difficult or impossible to trace an unregulated will-writer years after the will was prepared. When things do go wrong and the unregulated will-writer is at fault, there may be no insurance policy in place to protect the affected family."

Mr Edmonds said: "For many people, the service they receive from their lawyer or will-writer meets their needs. But our research shows that there are significant numbers of people receiving poor service and poor outcomes.

"We found too many examples of providers – lawyers and will-writers alike – not listening to their clients or being sloppy in their work, meaning those taking the important step of writing a will were also, unfortunately, leaving problems to their beneficiaries. [These measures] should reassure consumers that they will be more effectively protected."

A consultation on the LSB proposal will run until the middle of July.

Tom Lawrence, an expert on wills and estate planning at law firm Howes Percival, said: "Clearly, there is still some way for this to go before it ends up on the statute book. However, it seems now to be moving in the right direction.

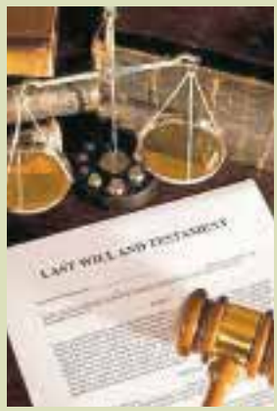
"This move follows the Scottish government's action to regulate will-writing in 2010, and mounting pressure to follow suit in an industry where many feel the issues around the quality of wills and poor sales practices in an unregulated sector are becoming more of a problem.

"Errors in will-drafting cause serious and, in the worst cases, insurmountable problems when it comes to dealing with a testator's estate.

"The end result is often substantially increased costs coupled with uncertainty, heartache and distress for the testator's family at an already deeply distressing time.

"As a result, there is no margin for error."

PLANNING YOUR WILL – DOs and DON'Ts



Do your research. You do it when you purchase a flat-screen television or car insurance, so why not for your will? Check the firm you plan to use. How long has it been in business? If things do go wrong, is it adequately insured? Does it have the experience and qualifications to deal with your case? Personal recommendations can be useful, but not as a substitute for your own research.

Do meet with your will-writer. Any good will-writer will want to meet you in person to discuss what you want to achieve in your will. Don't be surprised to be asked questions about your family, general background and the value and breakdown of your estate. This is all part of the process of making sure you receive the correct advice. Will-writing should never be a conveyor-belt process.

Do prepare for your meeting. Draft a list of questions you want to ask. Any good will-writer will want to discuss the composition of your estate. This is to consider the tax position and to make sure the terms of your will are suitable. Therefore, also prepare a schedule of your assets (including life insurance, pensions, trusts, foreign assets etc) and liabilities. If you already have a will, let the will-writer see a copy. If you own your home, the will-writer should want to see your deeds to check the ownership position.

Don't let fancy pricing and offers of cheap wills make the decision for you. A cheap will could end up being the most costly mistake you make. Generally, you get what you pay for.

Don't leave it to the last minute. Making a will needs careful consideration and needs to be thought through.

Don't hold back any information that you think may be relevant.

Don't pay money up front for a will. This should not be necessary.

Don't get caught paying high storage costs. This shouldn't be necessary. Most firms will store your will for free.

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IF you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Applications welcome for £35 million growth cash

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BUSINESS-LEADERS have welcomed the news that a £35 million growth fund set aside for east Kent is now open for applications.

The cash injection is being seen as a big boost for the area after pharmaceutical giant Pfizer closed its plant in Sandwich last year with a loss of 2,400 jobs.

Companies involved in research and development, manufacturing, tourism and culture are being encouraged to apply for a slice of the cash.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce chief Jo James said: "We see the programme very much as a smart use of public funds to stimulate business growth and create jobs in east Kent. By providing business loans as against business grants, this will build in sustainability and long-term funding and create tangible returns on investments for the local economy.

"The application process is fairly straightforward and business-friendly. The application is in two stages: firstly a pre-application, which will help establish eligibility and likelihood of application success, followed by the full application process.

"There is help in assisting at the pre-application stage through a series of clinics provided by both Kent Invicta and Channel Chambers of Commerce."

Expansion East Kent aims to create 5,000 jobs across Canterbury, Shepway, Dover and Thanet by inviting companies to apply for interest-free loans ranging from £5,000 to £2.5m.

Any business can apply – although there are restrictions on the agricultural sector due to EU rules – but companies must demonstrate plans to grow and employ more people. The project will also see a further £5m invested in rail enhancements to reduce travel time between London and Ramsgate.

The £40m comes from the Government's Regional Growth Fund and any application will be assessed for its suitability by professional-services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The Federation of Small Businesses in Kent and Medway is also delighted with the news, members saying they are pleased that the Government has recognised there are areas of deprivation in south-east England and that investment is required to stimulate economic recovery, job-creation and growth.

Debasish Sen, FSB vice-chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "In the past, most Government incentive schemes have been focused in the north and west of the UK, so access to a share of the £35m for business development in east Kent is good news.

"This is not something for nothing and businesses will still face the challenge of finding match-funding. However, we trust the flexible repayment terms promised by KCC when assessing applications will enable many new and growing businesses to benefit."

Business cheifs in Kent also believe that transport improvements are essential for business growth and the £5 million set aside to reduce the rail journey time from Ramsgate through Canterbury to London will assist the local economy.

FSB member David Milham, of ASC Finance for Business, based in Faversham, said: "To be a success, we hope banks will be treating these soft loans as part of the client capital introduced by the business and not deduct this source of funding from their loan offer.

"The plan to process loans quickly, with transparency and flexibility is welcome and a pre-qualification process will avoid wasted time for both businesses and the council."

Kent County Council will be administering the project, with leader Paul Carter looking to "unlock public-sector finance" using the programme during the next four years to bring in multi-million-pound investment to east Kent.

He said: "Since Pfizer's announcement to exit from its site last year, we've left no stone unturned trying to support current business, develop new opportunities and lay down a solid foundation for growth.

"Expansion East Kent will provide financial support to firms as interest-free loans. This intelligent use of funding means we can recycle the money to provide vital business support on an ongoing basis, benefiting local firms and creating local jobs for years to come.

"We want to encourage applications from sectors where new investment is particularly important and can yield significant economic benefits, for example manufacturing, advanced engineering, tourism, life sciences and green-tech industries.

"This significantly builds on our work to help market and promote the Discovery Park Enterprise Zone in Sandwich and will have an impact across the whole of east Kent."



HANDS ON: County council leader Paul Carter outlines the funding project to companies

FINANCIAL SUPPORT CAN BE USED TO FUND:

- Land purchase (as part of a bigger investment proposal)
- Land development/work
- Buildings purchase (as part of a bigger investment proposal)
- Buildings construction/improvement
- Certain professional fees
- Fixtures and fittings
- Equipment and machinery
- Salary costs for new, permanent employees – wage costs over a period of two years for employment directly created as a result of the investment
- Research and development costs – can include revenue costs and capital equipment and tooling
- Transfer of technology or knowledge – patent rights, licences, know-how and unpatented technical knowledge
- **To find out more about Expansion East Kent and for full details of the application process, visit www.kent.gov.uk/expansion**

■ **FOR ALL THE LATEST JOBS IN KENT –** with more than 1,500 advertised **– SEE OUR WEBSITE WWW.JOBS24.CO.UK/KENT**

Safer socialising scheme ensures a good night for all

AN awards ceremony has recognised businesses' dedication to keeping the public safe.

Well known as a clubbing town, Maidstone hosts up to 15,000 revellers every Saturday night, and with 1,500 dependent jobs the town's night economy is vitally important to its business health.

In 2006, Maidstone became the first town in the country to be recognised with the Safer Socialising Award, the night equivalent of the Safer Shopping Award, which reflects the robust management of the night economy.

Following this, Maidstone Town Centre Management's priority then moved to giving individual licensed premises annual accreditation.



The purpose of the individual premise award is to encourage businesses to achieve higher standards of management and operation and rewards those who gain the accreditation standards.

The project, managed by the business-crime-reduction partnership MaidSafe, involves the inspection of licensed premises by senior representatives from Town Centre Management and its partners Kent Police, Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards and the licensing authority.

In the latest round of the Action Against Business Crime, Safer Socialising Awards were presented to Iceland, Strawberry Moons, Road House, Source Bar and Tesco Express.

In recognition of their achievements, the awards this year were presented by Maidstone town centre's Inspector Mark Hutcheon and MaidSafe chairman Paul Alcock. They were hosted by award recipient Road House.

Call for change in culture when granting contracts

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SMALL businesses are still struggling to win lucrative public-sector contracts despite the Government's efforts to make it easier, the latest figures from the Federation of Small Businesses show.

The Voice of Small Business survey panel of FSB members reveals 40 per cent of small firms believe the tendering process for public-sector contracts is too complex, while 37 per cent think they are sidelined by public officials who believe bigger firms must be better.

The findings come despite the Government's launch of its Contracts Finder website designed to make it easier for small firms to find and bid for public-sector work.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "The Government has made an effort to raise awareness in the public sector that Britain's entrepreneurs and small businesses are willing and able business partners.

"But clearly more must be done. While central government has raised its game, without a true culture change across the public sector as a whole, the Government's initiatives will have little impact."

The survey of more than 2,700 FSB members showed that although one in seven firms had bid for a public-sector contract in the last year, 41 per cent failed to secure any business from any of the bids they had submitted.

Of those firms that had won contracts, only a quarter (27 per cent) said they had found the Contracts Finder website useful, with twice that number (55 per cent) relying on personal contacts and referrals.

The key findings reveal:

- 40 per cent of firms want a simplified tendering process.
- 38 per cent believe the public sector should actively use small businesses or encourage consortia of small and medium-sized firms where possible.
- 38 per cent believe public-sector bosses should evaluate tenders based on experience and ability rather than on the size and turnover of bidding firms.

While there has been welcome progress with central ggovernment's performance, the FSB has long said its initiatives will not go far enough unless they are adopted by the wider public sector.

So the FSB is calling for all parts of the public sector to agree to the range of measures to support small firms detailed in the Procurement Pledge published by the Government.

The FSB is also taking action by undertaking its own research into local-government procurement, surveying every council in the UK to identify and promote best practice.



CHANGE: Roger House of the FSB

Six jobs created as new pet store opens its doors

PETS at Home has invested more than £400,000 in a new store at Gillingham Retail Park, providing six new jobs for the area.

The store will provide thousands of dedicated pet products for dogs, cats, small animals, reptiles, chickens, birds, fish and wildlife. There will also be a groom room.

The company, founded in 1991, has more than 310 sites across the UK employing more than 5,200 people. This year, it was awarded second place in the Sunday Times Top 25 Best Big Companies to work for.

Pets at Home is committed to recruiting from the local area and applicants go through a number of stages to assess their compatibility for the role. Animal welfare is at the heart of its business, which is why it believes in employing pet-lovers to serve pet-lovers. About 94 per cent of Pets at Home employees nationwide own a pet.

The company also invests in the career development of employees, giving staff the option to gain specialist qualifications in pet care. Many have worked for the company for more than 10 years.

Store manager Dan Harding has been with Pets at Home for six years.



During this time he has received regular training in pet care and is the owner of two cats, Milly and Mr T, a dog called Riz and two chinchillas, Barney and Benji.

Harding and his team have undergone special training to further develop their pet-care expertise ahead of the store opening.

He said: "I love my job and working with pets. We are all passionate about pets, which is evident to everyone who visits a Pets at Home store.

"Every day brings new challenges and it's never the same two days running. I enjoy interacting with customers and giving them the help and advice they need.

"Thanks to Pets at Home, I am fully qualified to advise on all types of pets, from rabbits, guinea pigs and chinchillas to fish and reptiles."



No grizzling at cash surprise

A FOLKESTONE company had a pleasant surprise when it received a call from its bank manager to say it would be getting £2,000 cash-back along with the business loan it had requested.

Grizzlys Custom Bikes is an independent Harley-Davidson parts and servicing specialist on the Highfield Industrial Estate in Folkestone. The company is owned and run by Lyndon and Jenny Fraser and offers parts, repairs and servicing for Harley-Davidsons and other custom motorcycles.

The company had been looking at diversifying and decided to approach its bank for a loan to purchase the equipment to be able to offer bike MOTs.

Ms Fraser said: "Although our business remains profitable we have seen a drop in general servicing work as a result of the recession and recognised that we needed to diversify.

"To be able to provide MOTs for our existing customers and also to attract new customers seemed like a sensible move."

Richard Evans, business manager at Barclays, said: "Lyndon and Jenny's business is one of the first in Kent to benefit from the Barclays Cashback Finance Scheme, part of the Government's National Loan Guarantee Scheme (NLGS), which was announced by the Chancellor during the Budget.

"It was great to be able to call them and let them know they would be getting this extra cash. It's been a pleasure seeing the business grow and flourish and I look forward to working with them long into the future."

Under the Barclays scheme, qualifying businesses that take out a loan receive the full benefit of the NLGS discount immediately in the form of an up-front cash pay-out.

This is calculated as one percentage point discount on the loan price over the first five years.

Ms Fraser said: "Now we have the loan we are able to order the MOT equipment and cover the associated costs of installation and improving our customer area to be able to provide a first-class service to customers old and new."

Training, courses and careers

Animal magic for college students

ANIMAL care and veterinary nursing students at Canterbury College met zookeepers, police dog handlers, and more, at their first specialist careers day.

More than 60 students on BTEC animal care and veterinary nursing courses heard a wide variety of guest speakers at the event, held in the college's main hall, which allowed the students to learn about careers available to them after completing their course.

And they got to handle a python when former animal care student, Ben Bartlett spoke.

Ben, 20, who is also studying animal care at university, explained how he set up his business Claws and Jaws that provides exotic animals and education talks to parties, schools and other events.

He said: "I've been in regular contact with the college since I left, so I was happy to come in. The Canterbury College animal care course gave me a good grounding for everything I needed to know."

Sniffer dog handler PC Steve Reith, keepers from Howletts Wild Animal Park and Wildwood Trust, a dog behaviour expert, Guide Dogs for the Blind, veterinary nurses, a farm manager and an ecology expert from JFA Environmental Planning, all gave talks throughout the day.

Career advice for ex-servicemen

PEOPLE leaving the Armed Forces, and their families, have been encouraged to plan ahead by attending a free Military to Civilian Career Transition event being held in Aylesford.

This event is being organised to guide those leaving the military through uncertain times and highlight future career opportunities beyond the Armed Forces.

It is at the British Legion Village, Hall Road, Aylesford, on May 16, between 10.30am-3.30pm.

The day will offer service leavers and their families the opportunity to meet and network with potential employers and learn about training and self-employment/franchise opportunities. There will also be talks and exhibits offering information and support, such as housing advice.

Attendees are urged to bring their CVs along with them to benefit from free CV-writing assistance.

In the past, employers attending the event have been particularly impressed by those attendees who have researched the exhibiting companies and brought along their CV and record of achievements to demonstrate their skills. Details of all exhibitors can be found online.

Attend the event free of charge by registering at www.bfrsevents.co.uk

Saatchi pop-up agency a chance to get creative



AD TEAM: Creative director Mark Goodwin, managing director Richard Alford, Damian Collins MP, chief operating officer Camilla Harrison, and business unit head Tom Firth

THIS summer the famous advertising agency M&C Saatchi is to open a 'pop up' agency in a training project designed for young people.

The industry initiative will give 18 to 24-year-olds from the Folkestone area the opportunity to develop their creative skills with training and advice from world class practitioners.

The scheme is called The Lab and is being championed by Shepway Tory MP and ex-M&C Saatchi employee Damian Collins. It aims to inspire young people to broaden their horizons and become engaged within the creative communications industry.

The project will also bring together a raft of local businesses, including Saga, Visit Kent, Screen South, Holiday Extras, Created.co, Film Factory, Creative Foundation, Church and Dwight, Eurotunnel, Folkestone Job Centre, and Academy FM, all of whom will support the project.

Mr Collins said: "To have the chance to bring M&C Saatchi to Folkestone is a fantastic opportunity for the young people of the area.

"It will generate a real sense of community spirit by linking individuals with various local businesses and give them a great insight into the communications industry.

"I am really looking forward to the whole process and to see what our young generation is capable of."

The Lab will run for two weeks starting on July 9 and will be housed by the Creative Foundation.

Applicants will be able to apply via an M&C Saatchi micro website – www.mcsaatchilab.co.uk – which will launch on May 14 and will require them to answer three simple questions.

There will be 12 successful candidates, who will embark on a three-part course over two weeks, which will be split into the following processes:

- Creative training
- work experience and group sessions
- pitch preparation and presentation.

The successful candidates will then form two teams who will take part in an Apprentice-style pitch to a live local client brief with the winning work to run locally.

There will be a chance of work placements at the end of the fortnight with local businesses, as well as offering invaluable career advice and support to the candidates.

M&C Saatchi will also be hosting a series of presentations led by senior staff, including chief operating officer Camilla Harrisson, managing director Richard Alford, and creative director Mark Goodwin.

The talks will be open to anyone who wants to attend.

Mr Alford said: "The future of our industry depends on talented young people feeling inspired to join the creative world.

"Creating a community outreach project like this is also a real opportunity for us to see what talent there is outside of London and we hope that this will inspire young people to express their creativity and think about a future in the industry."

The Creative Foundation is an arts regeneration charity based in Folkestone. Its remit is to manage a major project in the historic heart of the seaside town that will restore the area's vitality by encouraging creative enterprise.

The organisation has acquired over 80 buildings in the old town, designated a Creative Quarter, and has recruited a range of creative businesses and artists as tenants.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

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Kent County Council

Schools & education

Schoolchildren encouraged to get passionate about start of Olympics

DEAL-based arts education agency Future Creative has started work on a Kent County Council-funded initiative with 48 schools across Dover district in the build up to the Olympic Games.

Pass the Passion is a programme of arts and cultural experiences set up to celebrate the upcoming arrival of the Olympic torch in Dover and build up excitement in anticipation of London 2012.

Working in partnership with Vista Leisure, Dover Extended Schools and Kent 2012, Future Creative will be sending artists and creative professionals into primary and secondary schools to help run creative learning activities which range from art, drama and music to creative writing.

"Each workshop is designed to encourage schoolchildren to use the arrival of the Olympic torch as an opportunity to think about their future aspirations," said Future Creative chief executive Esme Chilton.

"Pass the Passion will inspire young people to explore their hopes and dreams and help them to imagine where they will be in 20 years' time."

The workshops for the Pass the Passion Olympic torch project will be blazing their own trail through schools across the Dover, Deal and Sandwich district running from mid-April to July 13.

UCA honour for Habitat founder and top designer Sir Terence

ONE of the world's best known designers has become an honorary professor at the University for the Creative Arts.

Sir Terence Conran received the award from UCA, which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester, for services to design, education and the creative arts.

Sir Terence said: "This award is a true honour to me because I have always passionately believed that creativity and education are of fundamental importance to the way we live our lives and to our economy.

"UCA is an extraordinary university with a great heritage and reputation for innovative forward-thinking in nurturing talent and creativity. They have a big part to play in all our futures.

"Being here today has been such a pleasure because you can feel the passion of the students and staff all around you and in everything they do."

The founder of Habitat, Conran Holdings, Benchmark Furniture, and the Design Museum, will take up the honorary role immediately.

Guests at the ceremony included UCA graduate Karen Millen, and students who had the opportunity to put questions to Sir Terence.



HONOUR: Professor Sir Terence Conran with UCA vice-chancellor Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr

UCA vice-chancellor Dr Simon Ofield-Kerr said: "UCA is delighted to award Sir Terence Conran with this honorary professorship.

"He single-handedly changed this country's understanding of design and has changed modern life through his products, shops and restaurants.

"Sir Terence Conran continues to provide us all with an education in design and is someone that both staff and students look up to."

Stars on hand as college stages Games for partner primary school

PARALYMPIC runner Sophia Warner was among the guests when MidKent College hosted an Olympic-themed sports day for one of its partner primary schools.

Held in the moat of the Lower Lines Park – next to the college's Medway campus – the spectacle featured live music and entertainment as pupils from Skinner Street Primary School, Gillingham, competed in a number of events.

World Transplant Games participant Lisa Innes was also on hand alongside Warner to award medals to the winners on the college's own Olympic podium.

Tony Truscott – head of the care and community services faculty – said: "It was a spectacular event. The kids loved it and it's something they will remember for the rest of their lives.

"We at MidKent College take the Olympic and Paralympic values very seriously, and many of them – including respect, friendship and equality – were on display here today.

"We are proud of the partnership we have formed with Skinner Street Primary School and are delighted the event went as well as it did. Perhaps one or two of the children who took part will be inspired to pursue their own sporting dreams in the future."

And Jack Colverson, 8, had the chance to carry the college's own Olympic torch after being rewarded for his kindness and hard work at school.



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FOSTER CARE **FORTNIGHT**

OPPORTUNITY

What is fostering all about and who can do it?

FOSTERING is a way of offering children and young people a home while their own family are unable to look after them.

About 79 per cent of children who are looked after away from home in the UK live with foster families. Foster carers are child-care experts working alongside a team of professionals providing children with the highest standard of care.

Fostering is not easy, but it offers the opportunity to make a huge difference to the lives of the children who need it and can be a very rewarding experience.

Fostering is often a temporary arrangement, and many fostered children return to their own families. Those children who cannot return home but still want to stay in touch with their families often live in long-term foster care.

Almost anyone can apply to be a foster carer, but as with any career, some people will be more suited to it than others. You do not need any formal qualifications; however, you do need skills and experience that will enable you to meet the needs of the children and young people for whom you care.

Fostering services need to recruit a variety of foster carers to offer as much placement choice as possible to children and young people. You can apply to foster regardless of your marital status, sexuality or residential status. Foster carers come from a diverse range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, which reflect the children and young people in care.

There are certain offences that will prevent you becoming a foster carer, so if you have ever been convicted of a sexual offence or a violent act towards a child then you will not be able to foster.

Fostering is not adoption. Adoption is where a new family is provided for children who can no longer live with their own family.

An adoption order transfers the child's legal relationship from their birth family to the new adoptive family. Adoption is the best option for a minority of children, with some 4,000 children needing adoptive families each year.

However, the vast majority of children in care do not need a new family, but rather to be given the highest standard of care until they can return to their own family or move on elsewhere.

CHRYSALIS CARE

Keep the focus on family

ESTABLISHED in 1997, Chrysalis Care is a family-run business serving the London boroughs and Home Counties with the very best in foster care. Founded by Lynda and Lou Boden, the family ethos runs through the veins of Chrysalis Care.

Aiming to maintain quality services from the outset, the child-centred, personalised care provides nurturing homes for potentially-vulnerable children who are looked after by the local authority and are unable to live with their birth families.

With more than 85 foster homes and 110 children currently in placement, Jo Oliver, strategic development executive at Chrysalis Care, believes the standard of care ensures their place as one of the industry leaders.

"Our process of recruitment and assessment for prospective foster carers is extremely effective. We continually invest in learning and development programmes when it comes to training the foster carers, a process we believe is comprehensive and ensures the best possible standard of care."

Chrysalis Care has maintained its Outstanding award from Ofsted and has Investors in People status.

Its availability of skilled foster carers ensures each child or sibling group is matched with the most suitable family best able to meet their needs.

"We have a wide diversity of foster carers," Jo said. "Every one of us believes in children and in their development, with the aim of providing children the opportunity to flourish."



Chrysalis Care's ethos is: We believe in children... they deserve the best...we provide it...

Chrysalis Care offer a huge range of additional services, including play therapy, mentoring and an accredited educational provision, supported by our dedicated Children's Services department.

We can provide you with a great opportunity to help transform children's lives.

- You don't have to be married
- You don't need to be employed
- You don't need a big house
- You do need a spare room and space in your life to help a vulnerable child to achieve.

As a Chrysalis Care foster carer you will receive:

- 24-hour professional support
- Excellent remuneration
- Job satisfaction
- Comprehensive training
- Access to a range of children's services
- Retainer fees

Chrysalis Care is currently recruiting foster carers to join its team. If you have a sense of fun and a vibrancy for life, a spare room, time to give to a child or children, or can provide a home to teenagers, a parent and child, children with disabilities or are interested in remand fostering, we would like to hear from you.

If you believe you have what it takes to become a foster carer, then please call 0208 298 2800, email info@chrysaliscare.org, or see www.chrysaliscarefostering.org.

ORANGE GROVE FOSTERCARE

Help meet a need

ORANGE Grove Fostercare would like to encourage people to think about a profession as a foster carer.

The Fostering Network believes that there are 50,000 children living with foster families in the UK, with a further 10,000 placements needed.

Janet Daby, team manager, Orange Grove Fostercare, south London and Kent office, said: "There is a national shortage of foster carers and the needs of many vulnerable children are not being met. We are looking to recruit local carers from south London and Kent who are committed, resilient and able to provide a safe and caring environment for a vulnerable child.

"Orange Grove Fostercare recognises that foster carers are professional people and offers them the rewards, training and full support that their status requires."

The Orange Grove Fostercare south London and Kent regional office covers Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Kent, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Southwark, Sutton, Bromley and Wandsworth.

If you have a spare bedroom and the time, commitment and ability to support a child in your home, plus a desire for a professional and rewarding career, then fostering may be the right profession for you.

There are many different types of fostering tailored to suit the individual needs of children and young people, including short- or long-term, parent and child and respite fostering.

Orange Grove Fostercare would welcome enquiries from people interested in becoming a foster carer. If you feel you have the skills to help children develop to their full potential, please contact Orange Grove Fostercare (phone 0208 2972362, email southlondonkent@theorangegrove.co.uk).

For further information about foster care, please visit www.theorangegrove.co.uk.

MOMENTS FOSTERING

Moments all add up to change a child's life for the better

MOST people have heard about fostering, but the industry is aiming to raise its profile even further to cope with demand.

Daniel Croft, manager of Moments Fostering Agency in Whitstable, is one of many who think the service needs to do more to educate the public.

"I like to sum up foster carers as 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things'. After all, foster carers are everyday people who push their limits and make a huge difference to a child's life. That difference is carried into their adult life and the children today are the future teachers, doctors, foster carers and peacekeepers, so they are the future.

"There's no better qualification in the world than life experience. Full training is given and ongoing throughout a foster carer's career. These will include first-aid training, safeguarding and behaviour-management courses."

Are you an experienced foster career, or are you just thinking of fostering as a new career? Moments is interested in working with people who want to make a real difference to children and young people in care by providing a supportive, nurturing and stable home environment.

Foster Care Fortnight is a chance to give thanks and celebrate carers' work. It is also a chance for people to find out about the profession and consider whether it would be right for them. Foster care is a very challenging but rewarding career. It is no different to family life – there will be ups and downs – but for the right people it will enrich their lives and the lives of the children for whom they care.

Becoming a foster parent can deliver a decent life for some lucky youngsters, but the industry is short of applicants. If becoming a foster career is something you have considered, why not take the opportunity to find out more?

Give Moments Fostering a call today. Our team is available on the phone to offer advice and guidance and we host information evenings where you can meet other carers.

The application process is thorough, as you would expect, but there is support throughout. If you decide to go ahead and are accepted, there is an in-depth induction programme.

Daniel added: "All our foster carers are professionals and have ongoing training to develop their skills. So if you're looking for a different career that really makes a difference, look no further than fostering."

Moments Fostering agency was founded by the Croft family in 2000; it has foster carers in Kent and East Sussex. After its recent Ofsted Inspection, the overall rating for the service that it provides is Outstanding. This includes long- and short-term and emergency placements, supervised contact and outreach for children not attending school.

Moments Fostering is recruiting foster carers, and anyone interested should email Sarah Green at sarah@momentsfostering.co.uk for details.

Alternatively, call 01227 479444 or visit www.momentsfostering.co.uk.

Alongside the Fostering Network, Moments Fostering is involved in the 22 Minutes campaign. A child comes into care and needs a family every 22 minutes – there is an urgent need for 8,750 more foster carers in the UK.

Daniel is trekking in Nepal to raise funds for fostering. He has so far raised more than £6,000, and it's not too late to contribute.

He has also been selected to be a torch-bearer in the London Torch Relay. Daniel will be carrying the flame through Sturry on Thursday, July 19. See www.justgiving.com/fosteringnetworknepaltrek2012 to sponsor him.

SKILFUL KENT



The University of Greenwich, School of Engineering are offering a short course for members of the public and businesses in Kent, who would like to learn more about;

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UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH BIG

NORTH WEST KENT COLLEGE AND GILLINGHAM FC FOOTBALL ACADEMY

North West Kent College and Gillingham Football Club have put pen to paper in an exciting new scheme aimed at developing elite footballers along with studying academic qualifications.

North West Kent College, who have sites in both Dartford and Gravesend, have over eight years experience working in this field and with a great deal of success.

Gillingham Football Club welcomes the partnership and sees this as a major extension to its recruitment arm under the new Elite Player Performance Plan.

Academy Manager Darren Hare said: "I'm excited about the prospect of working with North West Kent College, and when I was approached with the opportunity, I really felt it was something we needed to do.

"Our recruitment of players extends all over Kent, but it will enhance our program to be able to have a base in North Kent, on the outskirts of London, to give us a chance of competing with the bigger clubs under the new EPPP regulations."

The programme will run initially both at the Dartford site as well as in Medway, and is a mix of high quality football coaching and training along with a bespoke academic pathway.

Students have a choice of sports-related qualifications to study, and the teams will take part in the Conference Youth League wearing the Gills colours, playing games at the club's training ground at Beeching's Cross, Gillingham.

Darren added: "Obviously we wanted to embrace all aspects, and have a say in the football side of things, and the College have welcomed that involvement.

"We know the head coaches on the scheme well and we will watch the players develop with interest, and who knows, if we can get one or two to make the transition from this College academy to our own apprenticeship program, we will be delighted.

"It also provides us with a better exit and progression strategy for our U16 players when they are told they are not getting an apprenticeship - sometimes you can be wrong, and this could be a great place to keep an eye on them too if they wanted to'.

Chris Lydon, Associate Director of Sport & Leisure at North West Kent College said: "I am delighted to be working in partnership with Gillingham Football Club.

The Education and Football Scheme allows learners aged 16-18 to continue their full time education whilst developing their football talents under the guidance of UEFA coaches.

"Obviously being in partnership with a professional football club is very exciting and will allow talented young players to pursue their ambitions in football whilst still being able to study.

"I am delighted with the involvement of Gillingham Football Club and I particularly look forward to working with Darren and his team as the scheme develops."

Student places for the football academy and sports courses will be sought after, so get in touch while they remain available, North West Kent College 0800 074 1447.

For further information, please contact Joh Phipps (Gillingham Football Club) on 01634 350129, media@priestfield.com or Melanie Catchpole 01322 629658, melaniecatchpole@nwkcollege.ac.uk



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SKILFUL **KENT**

COMMUNICATION

How Twitter can work for business

TWITTER experts say they have built a list of the top 20 tactics to win new business on the social-media network and boost a company's profile.

Add People, the digital-marketing specialist, has trawled the internet and examined the best ways that businesses are using Twitter to grow their brands and win new clients and customers.

Grant Barton, managing director of Add People, said: "Companies are winning business on Twitter, but most are coy about exactly how they are doing it. We've looked at more than 3,000 UK businesses and have published



the top 20 tactics that business-owners and marketers are using in 2012.

"A social-media plan is essential for any business looking to develop an online presence. As the design and layout of Twitter changes, so does the way in which users interact within the site.

"Twitter-users are becoming much more involved with brands through the use of hash-tags and trending, which means businesses need to be prepared to engage with their customers effectively and efficiently."

Add People's top 20 Twitter tactics are:

1. Help others with problems by using the hash-tag for your industry.
2. Share tips related to your business and work-life balance.
3. Share photos of conferences, travel, products and other interesting finds.
4. Provide selected highlights from a conference or event.
5. Report industry, company, world and other news related to your business, together with some commentary.
6. Link to articles and content posted elsewhere with a summary of why it's valuable.
7. Post original thoughts on your topic, industry and business.
8. Join industry and topic groups related to your business and career.
9. Feed your tweets into other social networks like Facebook and LinkedIn.
10. Participate in Twitter chats related to your industry or business on a regular basis.
11. Research prospects before meeting them. You can gain a lot of valuable information just from scanning their tweets, profile and contacts.
12. Give referrals via Twitter. What goes around comes around.
13. Spread your tweets throughout the day, rather than posting them all at once, as people check Twitter at different times of the day.
14. Respond to tweets that relate to your industry.
15. Publish your Twitter ID on all marketing collateral, including business cards, email signature, email newsletters, websites and brochures so that prospects can learn more about you.
16. Post discounts and offers on Twitter.
17. Use keywords on your profile and a fun fact to earn trust, add personality and enable you to be found.
18. Dump the default Twitter avatar – use a photo of yourself or a suitable image
19. Follow experts, companies, competitors and leaders in your industry.
20. Be authentic, genuine and real. In other words, be yourself.

AWARD

Double recognition for scientists

KENT Science Park-based life-science business KWS Biotest Ltd has been named runner-up for the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Medilink UK Healthcare Business Awards 2012.

The Sittingbourne company was nominated after winning the Growth Award at the South West regional Biomedical iNet Awards in November.

KWS provides models of human disease, including immunology, inflammation and infection.

It offers a range of trials that help drug companies identify if chemicals and biochemicals have useful drug properties, providing the last key step in the research phase before development begins.

KWS won the regional award and was nominated for the national award for doubling its sales to £1.7 million in 2011.

Founded in August 2004 by Neil Williams, professor of immunology at Bristol University, the goal was to provide pharmaceutical companies with commercial drug- and vaccine-testing.

He took Trevor Langley on board as managing director and the first sale was made in January 2005. The company now has 26 employees

Mr Langley spoke about his company's recent success: "We are delighted to have been runner-up for the Medilink Outstanding Achievement Award, especially as the nomination came after winning the South West Biomedical iNet Growth Award.

"I feel these awards highlight just how successful last year was for us. Our sales rose by 100 per cent in 2011 compared with the previous year. We're looking to continue this growth into 2012, which is already shaping up to be another incredible year.

"I believe part of the reason KWS is so successful is that we originally came from a university research environment.

"Our staff look at things in the round, as well as providing a commercial service, which means we can also provide consultancy services, advising companies on the best way to run their experiments with us."

James Speck, site director at Kent Science Park, said: "The supportive environment of Kent Science Park is a natural fit for university spin-out companies such as KWS Biotest, and so far in 2012 we've already seen excellent results from a number of our tenant businesses.

"KWS Biotest deserves this recognition for the tremendous year it has just had."

Picture: NICK TREHARNE



WELL DONE! KWS Biotest is enjoying some much-deserved recognition

POWER

School embraces green energy with solar-panels investment

A SCHOOL that provided the original home of The Ashes urn has invested in a major renewable-energy installation after being bowled over by the scheme's green credentials.

Cobham Hall, an independent boarding and day school for girls, now boasts a 172-panel roof-mounted photovoltaic (PV) farm.

The solar PV device, which converts daylight into electricity, was fitted by established energy expert Enevis, based in Dartford.

It will provide the north Kent school with annual energy savings of more than £3,400. The 50kWp farm also boasts strong green credentials, with CO_2 savings of 25.8 tonnes per year.

Paul Mitchell, headmaster at Cobham Hall, said he was delighted with the solar PV investment and was already looking at ways of further reducing the carbon footprint, including having a biomass system, which burns logs and pellets to provide heating and hot water, installed at the school.

"As a member of the RoundSquare worldwide association of schools, we take our impact on the environment very seriously," he said.

"This is why we took steps to reduce our carbon footprint and are embracing new technologies as much as possible by installing the biggest solar PV system that we could while protecting the Grade I-listed building. We are also interested in investing in alternative-energy solutions, such as a biomass-burner.

"We would like to thank Enevis for their efficient, professional and cost-effective service."

Gary Mayatt, managing director of Enevis, which specialises in the installation of renewable systems for commercial and domestic clients, said: "We were delighted to install the solar PV system at Cobham Hall as we are passionate about teaching the next generation about the benefits of renewable energy.

"The equipment will provide annual energy savings in excess of £3,400 while also lowering the school's carbon footprint.

"A complementary biomass system will only further increase these green and cost-saving margins.

"At a time when schools are being asked to increase standards on ever-tightening budgets, renewable-energy technologies can help lower electricity and heating bills while also helping protect the environment."

The renewable-energy system marks another chapter in Cobham Hall's illustrious history.

The Ashes urn – contested by the England and Australian cricket teams – stood proudly on a mantelpiece in the Grade I-listed building for more than 30 years.

It was given to Cobham Hall's owner Ivo Bligh, who captained the English cricket team that set out for Australia following an informal game at Melbourne Cricket Club in 1882.

Club president Sir William Clarke's wife and some of the other ladies of the house – including one Florence Rose Morphy – burned one of the bails and presented them to Ivo in the now-famous urn.

Ivo and Florence went on to wed two years later before returning to Cobham Hall, where the urn took pride of place on the mantelpiece.

When Ivo died in 1927, Florence gave the trophy to the Marylebone Cricket Club for safekeeping, where it remains on display in the club's museum at Lord's.

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management P0482

18.5 hours per week
Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 pro rata (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will be considered.

Quality Co-ordinator P0070

Salary: £24,842 - £31,516 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway

We are seeking to appoint a Quality Co-ordinator who will make an important contribution to the monitoring and development of the college's quality improvement procedures and initiatives. Reporting to the Assistant Principal - Standards and Quality Improvement, you will work closely with the Faculty Heads and teaching and support staff across the college. You will act as the College Quality Nominee for awarding bodies and have a thorough understanding of the assessment processes of vocational provision.

College Youth Worker P0617

Salary: £20,724 - £26,702 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Medway and Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a self-starter who is highly motivated and is able to give clear focus to our youth work, working as a member of our dedicated Student Support Team at the College's new state of the art campus in Medway and our Maidstone site that is undergoing refurbishment. You will be responsible for moving forward our established learner voice model and advocating student's voice throughout college. To support our Students' Union and engage our ever increasing number of 16-19 year olds in Citizenship, volunteering, sport and other enrichment activities to supplement their learning and development. You will continue to develop partnerships with local organisations to take forward joint projects. This is an exciting role where you will need to use your organisational, communication and team working skills to make a real difference to many young people's lives.

MIS Data Administrator P0104

Salary: £15,503 - £18,066 per annum
Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to collect and enter data efficiently and assist with the smooth running of the Management Information Services department. The successful candidate will have data entry and administrative experience. In addition, knowledge of current legislation regarding Data Protection and Equality and Diversity would be beneficial.

Apprentice in Business Administration P0500

Training Allowance: £6,314 per annum
Medway

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our MIS Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration.

Closing date: 12 noon, Thursday 17 May 2012

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

MidKent College

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spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Manager
Full Time
To have overall responsibility for the management of Physiotherapy services on both sites as well as maintaining clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity. To be based at Ashford. Six or more years post graduate experience and previous management experience preferred

Physiotherapist
Full time
To manage own caseload primarily at Margate but across both sites if required. In-patient and out-patient service delivery will be required as will occasional weekend work. Bachelor Degree and 3 - 5 years post grad experience required
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Mary Guarnieri - 01843 234252
Closing date for applications Friday 25th May 2012

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital
QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site and a 4 bed unit situated at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

THEATRE Anaesthetic/Recovery - Nurse/ODP/TSW (Margate) Full and Part time
We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced, highly motivated theatre staff who have a flexible approach to working. Hours will include evening, weekend and bank holiday working. A minimum of 3 years current experience is essential.
To discuss these opportunities please contact either:
Dennis Sutton, Theatre Liaison Manager on 07807 829623 or
Mary Guarnieri, Matron on 01843 234555

PART-TIME HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT (Margate) Endoscopy Unit
20 hours per week
Qualifications
Previous experience desirable but not essential as full training will be given.
To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact either:
Dennis Sutton - Theatre Liaison Manager on 07807 829623 or
Linda McCafferty - Endoscopy Nurse on 07786 173796
Closing date for applications - Friday 25th May 2012

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Private Hospital,
QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 | Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

LECTURER IN PLASTERING

To raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Programme Area.

SALARY SCALE: £25,589 - £30,205
FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR.

Benefits include: Contributory pension scheme, 41 days holiday and a comprehensive range of staff benefits.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.
If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 25th May 2012

Interview Date: Tuesday 12th June 2012

Promoting Equality

Preventing Discrimination

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

COMMERCIAL HAIR AND BEAUTY/RESTAURANT RECEPTIONIST

(Two positions available)

To ensure the smooth and professional day to day running of the commercial Salon and Restaurant.

SALARY SCALE: £7,427 - £7,990 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK TO INCLUDE SATURDAY WORK, ALL YEAR.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.
If you require assistance please telephone our application line on (01843) 605052

Closing date: Friday 25th May 2012

Interview Date: Wednesday 6th June 2012

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGH STREET, SNODLAND)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on High Street and the one-way order on Queen's Avenue will be suspended from Holborough Road to the end of the road on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for eastbound traffic is via Holborough Road, Queen's Avenue, Queen's Road, Waghorn Road and for westbound is via Waghorn Road, Queen's Road, Queen's Avenue, Holborough Road, Rocfort Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway resurfacing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LONG MILL LANE, PLATT)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Long Mill Lane between Kettle Cottage and Platt Farm on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Crouch Lane, A25 Maidstone Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install new telegraph poles. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Derek Petts on 01622 632519.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL HALL & STATION ROAD LEVEL CROSSINGS, AYLESFORD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Hall and Station Road Level Crossings. Station Road will be closed between 23.40hrs on Friday 18th May 2012 to 04.00hrs Monday 21st May 2012 and Mill Hall will be closed between 23.40hrs on Friday 1st June 2012 to 20.00hrs Saturday 2nd June 2012.

The alternative route for Station Road is via Hall Road, A20 London Road, Rocky Hill, Broadway, St Peter's Bridge, Fairmeadow, A229 Royal Engineers Road, Running Horse Roundabout, Forstal Road, Bailey Bridge Road. There is no alternative route for Mill Hall, access will be maintained but delays are expected.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for maintenance purposes. Should you require any further information regarding these works, please contact Kirsty Mallinson of Centurion Site Services Ltd on 01924 372957.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WOODSIDE ROAD, RUSTHALL)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Woodside Road at the junction of Apsley Street on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 4 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Apsley Street, Rusthall Road, Harmony Street.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Glen Miller on 01233 714082.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 13th May 2012

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

CANTERBURY ROAD, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canterbury Road, Brabourne, on or after 2 June 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Pound Lane and Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Plain Road, Bridge Road, Lees Road and Manor Pound Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

A2990 (OLD) THANET WAY, HERNE BAY (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst water mains replacement works are being carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 40 mph on the A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, Herne Bay.

This affects the section of road from the Chestfield Road Roundabout eastwards to a point approximately 50 metres east of the junction with Westbrook Lane.

This takes effect on or after 28 May 2012 for up to 6 months, or until the works have been completed.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, WINCHEAP, CANTERBURY) (7.5T WEIGHT LIMIT) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made an Order under sections, 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order has the following effect:-

HOLLOW LANE, HOLLOWMEDE, ELHAM ROAD, COGANS TERRACE CANTERBURY	Prohibition of any goods vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable ofexceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in Hollow Lane from the junction with Wincheap (A28) to the junction with Homersham or in Hollowmede, Elham Road, or Cogans Terrace, Canterbury, except for loading.

A copy of the order which comes into operation on the 21st day of May 2012, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the lengths of road concerned may be viewed at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.

Anyone may, by application to the high court within 6 weeks of the publication of this notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained within it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

PARDONERS WAY & PILGRIMS WAY, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to renew water pipes and install meters, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pardoners Way & Pilgrims Way, Buckland, Dover, on or after 28 May 2012 as shown below.

PARDONERS WAY will be closed for its entire length, from 28 May 2012 for up to 2 weeks.

The alternative route is via Pilgrims Way, Parsons Way, Weavers Way and Squires Way.

PILGRIMS WAY will be closed from 13 June 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The closure will be between the junctions with Friars Way and Shipmans Way.

The alternative route is via Friars Way, Weavers Way, Old Park Hill and Pilgrims Way.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

DARNLEY ROAD, GRAVESEND- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council Has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Darnley Road.

The Order will become effective on 14th May 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days between the hours of 19:00 to 05:00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Darnley Road, Overcliffe, Thames Way, B261, Dover Road, Dover Road East and Old Road West.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate UKPN to gain access to cable network.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BRISHING ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Brishing Road from outside Fleet Farm Cottage north to 2nd pole past bridge over stream Chart Sutton on or after Friday 18th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Brishing Lane , Heath Road and Vice versa.

BT openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are to allow access to overhead cables for a new customer connection ,should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Kate Podsiadlo on 0370 0500792 .

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HEREFORD ROAD, SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hereford Road on or after Monday 28th May 2012 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Northumberland Road, Cambridge Crescent, Nottingham Avenue.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Graham White on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (OTHAM LANE, OTHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Otham Hole on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Honey Lane, White Horse Lane, Gore Court Road, Sutton Road, New Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Gemma Catt on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PYE LANE, ULCOMBE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Pye Lane between Headcorn Road and Eastwood Road on or after Monday 14th May 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Headcorn Road and Eastwood Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out ditching and carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Reynolds on 08458 247 800.

STEPS HILL ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of verge protection works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Steps Hill Road, on or after 28 May 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Chalky Road to A249 Detling Hill.

The alternative route is via Chalky Road, A249 Detling Hill.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

CROCKENHILL LANE, EYNSFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford to Sparepenny Lane, Farningham.

The Order will become effective on 27th May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 28th May 2012 and will last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via:

Wested Lane, Swanley, B2173 London Road, Swanley, A20 London Road A20 Main Road, Farningham, A225 Eynsford Road, Eynsford, A225 High Street, Eynsford, Riverside Eynsford, Sparepenny Lane,Eynsford.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

DALTONS ROAD/CROCKENHILL TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Daltons Road.

The Order will become effective on 13th May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 14/05/2012 and will last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Tyler Green Road, Crockenhill Road, Walden Road, East Hall Road, Gorse Road, Skeets Hill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate essential water maintenance works.

SCRATCHERS LANE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Scratchers Lane, Fawkham at the junction with Gorse Hill for 50m and Brands Hatch Paddock entrance.

The Order will become effective on 27th May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 28th May 2012 and will last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Gorse Hill, London Road, Fawkham Road also Speedgate Hill, Valley and Brands Hatch Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway surfacing works.

STANSTED LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Stansted Lane at the entrance of the London Golf Club to the junction of Ash Lane.

The Order will become effective on 13th May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 13th May 2012 and will last for approx 4 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London Road, Ash Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Golf Live event.

SUN HILL, FAWKHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Due to allowing safe access for electricity pole shift, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sun Hill, Fawkham, on or after 28 May 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for the whole length.

There will be no access for through traffic from the junction of Three Gates Road to the junction with Valley Road, Longfield.

The alternative route is via Three Gates Road, Speedgate Hill, Valley Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

POOT LANE, UPCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has intends to make Order prohibiting through traffic on Poot Lane, Upchurch, on or after 28 May 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Shoregate Lane and The Street (Twinney Lane).

The alternative route is via The Street and the remainder of Poot Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

MINNIS ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a railway bridge inspection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Minnis Road, Birchington, on or after 14 May 2012, from 00.01 hrs until 06.00 hrs.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Grenham Bay Avenue, Sea View Road, Grenham Road, Lyell Road, Station Approach and Minnis Road.

ST PETER'S FOOTPATH, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit waiting at all times on St Peter's Footpath, Margate, in the turning area opposite Drapers Mills Primary School, as defined below.

The specific section of St Peter's Footpath affected is on the northern side, from a point 20 metres south-east of the south-eastern boundary of number 7, for a distance of 20 metres south-eastwards into the turning area.

This Order takes effect on or after 28 May 2012 for up to 6 months or until superseded by a permanent Traffic Regulation Order.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/00242/FUL: Willow Cottage, Church Lane, Chislet, CT3 4EB Erection of single-storey extension forming garage and annexe to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr G Price** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00287/FUL: Kings School Recreation Centre, 1 St Stephens Road, Canterbury, CT2 7HU Installation of a photo voltaic (solar) panel system to the roof. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: The Kings School** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00490/FUL: 47 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HS Replacement front windows and front door. **Applicant: Mr Charles Short** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00603/LB: 19 King Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AJ Installation of satellite dish (Retrospective) **Applicant: Mr Heggie** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00635/FUL: 28 Hospital Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2PE Retrospective application for the replacement of ground floor sash window with French doors. **Applicant: Mr T Barnett** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00668/FUL: 7 Keats Corner, Canterbury, CT1 3FH Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Chang** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00679/FUL: Sheepcourt Farm, Duckpit Road, Waltham, CT4 5PY Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs P Izard** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//12/00682/FUL: Old Renville Farmhouse, Renville Farm Road, Bridge, CT4 5AD Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/09/0364/FUL for extensions to side and rear of garage. **Applicant: Mr John Roberts** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00683/LB: Sheepcourt Farm, Duckpit Road, Waltham, CT4 5PY Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs P Izard** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00688/FUL: 1 Lansdown Road, Canterbury, CT1 3JP Erection of hipped roof over existing flat roof. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Alexander** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00690/FUL: 64 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PS Conversion of first-floor to two one-bed self contained flats and associated works. **Applicant: Mr Douglas** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00697/FUL: 6 Homeside Farm, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6AR Extension to single garage to form double garage. **Applicant: Mr Fisher** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00699/FUL: Land to rear of 17-19 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AP Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of a two-storey extension to rear to provide storage on ground floor and self-contained flat on first-floor. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Whitstable Non-Ecclesiastical Charities** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00702/VAR: 45-47 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SW Variation of condition 18 of planning permission CA/11/0822/FUL relating to the approved drawings, variation of design of roof of main building. **Applicant: GGT Properties** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00708/FUL: Anvil Green Farm, Anvil Green Road, Waltham, CT4 7EU Extensions and alterations to farmhouse and barn and erection of freestanding barn. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Beck** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/00709/LB: Anvil Green Farm, Anvil Green Road, Waltham, CT4 7EU Extensions and alterations to farmhouse and barn and erection of freestanding barn. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Beck** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00720/FUL: 65-65A London Road, Canterbury Demolition of one pair of semi-detached dwellings and erection of 14 apartments. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Leng** Reason: Major development.
CA//12/00721/CAC: **65-65A London Road, Canterbury** Demolition of one pair of semi-detached dwellings. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Leng** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/00737/FUL: Woodlands House, Bourne Park, Bourne Park Road, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5BJ Construction of first-floor balcony. **Applicant: Mrs K Jelley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00740/TPO: **103 Chestfield Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LU** Fell one Apple tree subject of TPO No 2 1968. **Applicant: Chestfield Golf Club** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/00744/LB: 28-29 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RX Replacement non-illuminated sign and hanging signs and replacement illuminated menu board. **Applicant: Prezzo PLC** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/00758/FUL: 19 King Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AJ Installation of satellite dish (Retrospective) **Applicant: Mr Heggie** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 4 June 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 11 May 2012

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Wednesday 16 May 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/01233/FUL **The Schools At Somerhill Somerhill, Capel**
- 1.80m high (green or black) powder coated and galvanised steel palisade security fencing (LB)

12/01208/FUL **39 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Reinstatement of first floor from residential to restaurant (Class A3) (CA) (LB)

12/01231/FUL **27 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Extension of Time: Change of use from offices to dwelling (TW/09/00982/FUL refers) (CA) (LB)

12/01281/LBC Broad **Oak House Mill Lane, Frittenden**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement of 12 casement windows (LB)

12/01218/HOUSE **Trillinghurst Farmhouse RantersLane, Goudhurst**
- Two storey side extension (LB)

12/01221/LBC **Trillinghurst, Farmhouse Ranters Lane, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Two storey side extension (LB)

12/00790/FUL **Holly Shaw Queens Road, Hawkhurst**
- Demolition of existing bungalow and garage, closure of existing vehicular accesses and erection of six dwellings (one detached house and a terrace of three houses and two apartments) with associated parking provision and the creation of new vehicular and pedestrian access to Queens Road (CA) (LB)

12/00792/CAC **Holly Shaw Queens Road, Hawkhurst**
- Conservation Area Consent: Demolition of existing bungalow and garage (CA)

12/01227/HOUSE **Hawkhurst Place Oast Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Fenestration alterations, 6 no. conservation rooflights and alterations to roof (LB)

12/01237/LBC **Lillesden Park Hastings Road, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time: Listed Building Consent: Conversion and alteration to Lillesden House to form 14 residential apartments and demolition of former ancillary school buildings (TW/09/00882/LBC refers) (LB)

12/01270/FUL **Gate House Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Demolition of three detached garages and removal of porch. Two single storey extensions and a first floor extensions and alterations. Provision of replacement garage within residential curtilage and stable building outside residential curtilage (LB)

12/01275/LBC **Gate House Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of three detached garages and removal of porch. Two single storey extensions and a first floor extensions and alterations. (LB)

12/01230/FUL **Coggers Farm House The Broadway, Lamberhurst**
- Change of use from retail shop to residential (CA) (LB)

12/01057/LBC **23 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent - Fascia and projecting sign (LB)

12/01200/FUL **32 The Pantiles Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Ground floor and basement: Change of use from A1 to A3 for a destination cake shop and cafe (CA) (LB)

12/01244/FUL **11A Little Mount Sion Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use from A2 Offices to a residential live work unit (CA) (LB)

12/01258/HOUSE **4 Poona Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Demolition of existing single storey side extension. Replacement with single storey side extension, two storey in-fill rear extension and single storey rear extension (09/03562/HOUSE) - Variation of condition 3 to allow top half of windows to open and be non-obscured (CA)

12/01042/HOUSE **Edge Hill Camden Park, Park**
- Rear dormer extension (CA)

12/01240/HOUSE **Saxon House Pembury Road, Park**
- Rear two storey and rear single storey extensions and alterations to front elevation (CA)

12/01201/LBC **The Manor House 3 Lower Green Road, Pembury**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement and reconfiguration of garage doors and openings (LB)

12/00863/LBC **2 St Davids Bridge Cranbrook, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish**
- Listed Building Consent - Rear conservatory (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 12 May 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/0436/S - LINSTONE, EAST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RB - Amendments to previously approved development under MA/11/1242 (conversion of existing double garage into additional living accommodation with first floor extension over) being alterations to fenestration detail and external materials to be used. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0510/S - HUNTON COURT FARM, WEST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RR - Installation of a ground mounted solar array comprising 16 solar photovoltaic panels. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0515/N - 79, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SD - Listed building consent for alterations to first floor and second floor rear windows including infilling of 1(no) window and replacement of windows with single glazed timber casements and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0601/N - 29 TO 39, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LJ - Extension to existing railings to infill gap. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0619/S - LLOYDS PHARMACY, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0AA - Extension to shop front. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/0625/N - 111, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4BT - An application for listed building consent for internal alterations, demolition of existing conservatory, formation of new entrance with plinth wall/handrail, addition of extractor vents and other associated works. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0626/N - 111, ASHFORD ROAD, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4BT - Demolition of existing conservatory, formation of new entrance with plinth wall/handrail, addition of extractor vents, new parking space and other associated works. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0639/S - THE CABIN, OLD HERTSFIELD FARM, STAPLEHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9BW - Retention of existing cabin as dwellinghouse. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/0654/N - GODDINGTON, GODDINGTON LANE, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1JX - Listed Building Consent for installation of up-and-over timber garage doors to outbuilding. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/0661/S - LOOSE VALLEY NURSING HOME, 15, LINTON ROAD, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0AG - Application for new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/08/2175 (Erection of a part two storey part single storey extension) in order to extend the time limit for implementation for a further three years. **Reason: 2, 6**

MA/12/0685/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - An application for listed building consent for reconfiguration of west path to sundial area within main courtyard and associated works. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **27th May 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 13th May 2012

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PLANNING

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0286/SH - The Wedge Sandgate Esplanade Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Erection of a two storey rear extension.

Y12/0333/SH - The Old School School Lane Newington Folkestone Kent - Retrospective application for conversion of existing store into self-contained flat.

Y12/0394/SH* - Land opposite Valiant Sailor New Dover Road Capel-Le-Ferne Kent - Erection of two detached dwellings (alternative scheme to that approved under Y11/0403/SH).

Y12/0412/SH - 1 Vicarage Lane Elham Canterbury Kent CT4 6TT - Erection of a single storey rear extension following removal of existing conservatory and two storey side extension.

Y10/0819/SH# - 4 Coronation Square Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9AT - Erection of two storey dwelling with parking space to front, following demolition of existing garage/store building.

Y12/0287/SH - The Wedge Sandgate Esplanade Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of a two-storey rear extension, installation of replacement double-glazed windows, the movement of an existing window and other internal alterations.

Y12/0407/SH † - 46 and 48 North Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DU - Erection of a two-storey rear extension.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Folkestone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will come into effect on the 21st May 2012 and shall consolidate all On-Street Disabled Persons' Parking Places stated in the following Orders -

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

A copy of the Order, a copy of any Orders which may be consolidated by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817056

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/AS/0095/2012 - Proposed development at Eclipse Business Park, Brunswick Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1EL.

European Metal Recycling Limited is applying to Kent County Council (as the Waste Planning Authority) for planning permission for a change of use of the whole site to a Scrap Metal Storage and Processing Facility, including the conversion of the front of the existing building into two storey weighbridge office/staff amenity block; construction of a non ferrous compound; creation of a new entrance from Brunswick Road; addition of palisade and site fencing/screening; installation of a weighbridge, tanks to hold fluids drained from End of Life Vehicles and a shear/densifier in the ferrous yard.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

KCC/SE/0140/2012 - Proposed development at Knole Academy, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3LE

Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for redevelopment of existing school site to include; Retention of existing school buildings. Erection of a new three storey Academy building. Retention of temporary classrooms permitted under reference SE/11/258 for a further temporary period until the new academy building is finished and decant is complete. Relocation of storage containers and garage to northern perimeter of site. Removal of current nursery building and relocation of use within existing Academy dance studio. Retention of existing hard surfaced games courts and sports playing fields and creation of a new All Weather Pitch and hard and soft play/recreation areas. Provision of 195 on site car parking spaces, 12 motorcycle parking spaces, 2 mini-bus parking spaces, 1 mini-coach parking bay, 8 bus/coach pick up/drop off bays and 222 cycle space. Retention of existing vehicular entrances on to Bradbourne Vale Road and creation of a new access to the southern car park to provide for a bus drop off loop. Hard and soft landscaping. The proposed development does not accord with the provision of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 13 May 2012

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 28th May 2012

SW/12/0378:
Construction of 'cart shed' styled single garage with open plan kitchen, dining room & living room to ground floor, one bedroom and bathroom to first floor, agricultural styled lean-to log store to left hand side of garage, accommodation to be used as holiday letting 8 months/year. - Tabard, Stalisfield Green, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0451:
Conversion of redundent farm office to form a single dwelling - Cedar House, Lewson Street, NORTON; **REASON1**

SW/12/0463:
Change of use of council land adjacent 90 Upper Brents Faversham, for use as additional private garden for 90 Upper Brents Faversham. The erection of a brick boundary wall with piers as shown on drawing no 2012-101-01 - Land adjacent 90 Upper Brents, FAVERSHAM; **REASON** 1

SW/12/0494 &
SW/12/0495:
Residential caravan for use as agricultural forestry workers residence - Short Acre, Almshouse Road, THROWLEY; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0497:
Listed Building Consent to demolish existing staircase, remove small sections of internal partitions and floor, construct new oak staircase - 28 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/0503:
First floor side extension and single storey rear extension - 1 Evergreen Close, IWADE; **REASON 4**

SW/12/0524:
Erection of single storey extension to rear conversion of loft to provide habitable space. Conversion of garage to provide study and utility room - 44 Preston Grove, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/0528 &
SW/12/0529:
Installation of wood burning stove in Grade II Listed Building including flue system - The Old Stables, Newhouse Lane, SHELDWICH; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0533 &
SW/12/0534:
Alterations to existing annexe construction of oak framed car shelter - Boughton Court Farm, South Street, BOUGHTON; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0540:
Listed Building Consent for installation of oil fired central heating boiler connected to existing single storey rear extension via a pipe through the brick wall. The boiler will stand on existing garden paving - Dungate House, Pitstock Road, RODMERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/12/0545 &
SW/12/0546:
Removal of dilapidated outbuilding and glazed canopy. Construction of small extension with separate wc, plus new pitched roof to existing detached garage to replace flat room - 90 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Kits Coty Brasserie, 15 Old Chatham Road, Bluebell Hill, Aylesford**

Applicant: **Allan Casey**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
Variation of Premises Licence

We John Meredith Freeman and Julie Reeman hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for variation of a premises license to add the following licensable activities;

1. The provision of late night refreshment between 23:00 hours and 23:45 hours daily.
2. The provision of recorded music and dance between 16:00 hours and 23:00 hours daily and further
3. To permit an extension of the opening hours from 23.00 hours to 24.00 daily and
4. To alter the internal layout of the premises in accordance with plans lodged with Licensing Authority with this application

In respect of the premises situated at Pilgrims Way, Thurnham, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3LD and known by the sign of The Thurnham Suite to be known as the The Pilgrim Suite. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council ,Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m - Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.maidstone.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 1st June 2012.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent. ME19 5QP Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

LICENSING ACT 2003: Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that
Gulshan Singh Arora
Of 7 Arethusa Road Chatham Kent ME1 2TZ

Has applied to Medway Borough Council, Gun Wharf, Dock road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR for the VARIATION of An existing off licence

Proposed hours for sale of alcohol: Monday to Saturday 8am until 11pm Sunday 8am - 22:30

For the premises Apna Punjab Cash & Carry
Situated at 45 Church Street Chatham Kent ME4 4HJ

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 31st May 2012

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a Licence Application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is £5,000.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE662, BRABOURNE)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order was made on 3rd August 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath with a width of 1.0 metre which commences on Church Road opposite the Primary School and runs generally north-westwards for approximately 412.2 metres to its connection with public footpath AE285.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to MRS MARIA MCLAUCHLAN at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 25th June 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE508 (PART) AT BONNINGTON)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 25 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath AE508 which commences at NGR TR 0561 3490 (Point A) and runs in a north north-westerly direction on the eastern side of the field boundary for 109 metres to NGR TR 0557 3500 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and add a section of Public Footpath AE508 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0561 3490 (Point A) and runs in a north north-westerly direction on the western side of the field boundary for 116 metres to NGR TR 0556 3500 (Point C). The path then joins with AE508 on map sheet 126 (TR03NE).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 25 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 13 May 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE493 (PART) AT ALDINGTON)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 25 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by removing that length of Public Footpath AE493 which commences at NGR TR 0696 3507 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 75 metres to NGR TR 0695 3500 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and add a section of Public Footpath AE493 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0696 3507 (Point A) and continues in a south south-westerly for 76 metres to NGR TR 0694 3500 (Point C). The path then joins with AE493 on map sheet 125 (TR03SE).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 25 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 13 May 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE506 (PARTS) AT BONNINGTON)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 25 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by removing (a) that length of Public Footpath AE506 which commences at NGR TR 0578 3506 (Point A) and runs in a south south-westerly direction for 71 metres to NGR TR 0574 3500 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and to delete (b) that length of Public Footpath AE506 which commences at NGR TR 0573 3493 (Point C) and runs in a north north-easterly direction for 83 metres to NGR TR 0577 3500 (Point D). Between points C-D on the Order plan; and to add (a) a section of Public Footpath AE506 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0578 3506 (Point A) and runs in a south south-westerly direction for approximately 65 metres to NGR TR 0576 3500 (Point E); and to add (b) a section of Public Footpath AE506 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0573 3493 (Point C) and runs in a north north-easterly direction for 77 metres to NGR TR 0576 3500 (Point E).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 25 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 13 May 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE271 (PART) AT BRABOURNE)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 25 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by removing that length of Public Footpath AE271 which commences at NGR TR 0993 4170 (Point A) and runs in a south-easterly direction for 80 metres to NGR TR 1000 4166 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and to add a section of Public Footpath AE271 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0992 4175 (Point C) and runs in a south-easterly direction for 101 metres to NGR TR 1000 4169 (Point D). The path then joins with AE271 on map sheet 145 (TR14SW).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 25 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 13 May 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH HM72 (PART) AT BRENZETT)

DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 25 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath HM72 which commences at NGR TR 0272 3019 (Point A) and runs in a south south-easterly direction for 211 metres to NGR TR 0279 3000 (Point B). Between points A-B on the Order plan; and add a section of Public Footpath HM72 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at NGR TR 0272 3019 (Point A) and runs in a southerly direction for 197 metres to NGR TR 0275 3000 (Point C). The path then joins with HM72 on map sheet 120 (TR02NW).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the offices of Shepway District Council, The Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4QB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 25 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 13 May 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH TR34 AT NEWINGTON, RAMSGATE)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINTIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order, made on 20th April 2012 under Section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered TR34, which commences at NGR TR 3675 6632 (point A on the Order plan) and runs in an east-north-easterly direction for 33 metres to its connection with Newington Road at NGR TR 3678 6633 (point B), and will add a new length of public footpath numbered TR34 with a width of 1.8 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs in an east-south-easterly direction for 33 metres to its connection with Newington Road at NGR TR 3678 6631 (point C).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Gateway Plus, Thanet District Council, Thanet Highway Unit, Council Offices, P.O. Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below) not later than 11th June 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 13th May 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

To place your notice here, call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

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9 days, semi-all-inclusive

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17 & 24 September, 2012

This super holiday, taking in the French and Italian Rivieras, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras before boarding the Eurostar (from Ebbsfleet/Ashford on request) to Lille or Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and Diano Marina. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night and visits to Monaco & Eze, Portofino & Ventimiglia.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras - 1 glass of Champagne or alternative non-alcoholic drink
- Return Eurostar & TGV rail travel London St Pancras to Nice (*from Ebbsfleet/ Ashford on request)
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille outbound
- 7 nights sharing a twin/double room at the Piccolo Hotel, Diano Marina with 7 buffet breakfasts & dinners and free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local brands of beer, wine & spirits
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad

Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival & Monaco

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, *Ebbsfleet & Ashford

8 days, semi-all-inclusive

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£849pp





22 February, 2013

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premier Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous Champagne Bar before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar (*from Ebbsfleet/Ashford on request). On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco & Cervo. We stay in Diano Marina, situated on Italy's Riviera of Flowers. Our hotel is centrally located a short walk from the sea and the town centre.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at London St Pancras
- Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet & Ashford on request)
- Overnight hotel B&B in Paris outbound
- 6 nights half-board in Diano Marina, including Free Drinks 6pm to 11pm every night - local brands of beers, wine & spirits
- Included visits to Menton Lemon Festival & Nice Carnival plus Monaco & Cervo
- All transfers abroad



Summer Seaside Midweek Breaks

Pontin's Holiday Villages

Self-Drive - 4 nights, half board

Quote PM-KOS

£89pp

Pakefield, Suffolk coast: 11 & 18 June, 2012

Brean Sands, Somerset coast: 18 & 25 June; 2 & 9 July, 2012

Camber Sands, Sussex coast: 18 & 25 June; 2 & 9 July, 2012

Pontin's Holiday Villages are situated on the coast in super locations in Somerset, Suffolk and Sussex. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts – PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, crazy golf, tennis and more. Accommodation is in comfortable en-suite chalets with TV and tea/coffee-making facilities. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria.

INCLUDED:

- 4 nights en-suite chalet accommodation with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities
- 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts
- Entertainment every day



Grease & Saturday Night Fever Xmas Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote XP11-KOS

£99pp

2 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village. Enjoy great entertainment including a Grease tribute act & movie screening, festive food, a 99p Bar every night, ground-floor chalet accommodation, an indoor pool, Pakefield's peaceful seafront location near Lowestoft and much more.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - Full Entertainment programme featuring Grease tribute act & movie screening
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts - 3 nights en-suite chalet with TV & tea/coffee-making facilities

Good value, good service

Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly
– Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value
– Mr & Mrs Thurlow of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful – Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What readers said about our Exclusive Party Break at Pontins Pakefield in March



Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Quote BX1-KOS

£239pp

11 to 14 January, 2013

Our Carry on New Year Party is back at Warner Bembridge in 2013 by popular demand. Once again fun is the theme with plenty of entertainment and a party atmosphere throughout at this super seaside hotel.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment & activities programme
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing

Come Dancing Party

If you're a dance fan who enjoys ballroom and latin dancing, we're running our popular Come Dancing Party alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add dance tuition, a Gala Ball and much more for just **£20pp** extra

Meet your **perfect partner** through your **local** trusted **dating service**

Call: *0800 032 9100* to place a free ad



Women Seeking

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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

ANNE romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743**

ANNE 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496**

FEMALE 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787**

CHRISTIAN lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565**

JUNE good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tlc. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301**

46YR old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143**

ATTRACTIVE lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

NIAMH slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real women. Or at least thinks he can. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051**

EMMA pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373**

LYNDA very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386653**

KERRY blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

JACKIE late 40's, attractive, slim, fun to be with, looking for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys walking, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389283**

BERYL 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503**

HI I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643**

TINA new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625**

SARA 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623**

ATTRACTIVE 48yr old lady, slim, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes travel, cooking, working out, seeking loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390868**

MICHELLE fit trendy 40's female, no ties, good job, OHAC, fun to be with, looking for honest trustworthy male for friendship, poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389757**

TRUDIE blue eyes, dark hair, solvent, OHAC, enjoys life, spending money, going out, seeking genuine male to enjoy life with and spoil. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389755**

AMANDA honest pretty single mum, 30, big brown eyes, attractive, seeking single male/dad for lots of tlc and companionship. pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389737**

LINDA busty blue eyed blonde bombshell, likes holidays, socialising, looking good, WLTM Mr Right to become a perfect trophy wife. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389735**

AMANDA 25yr old easygoing singleton looking for fun times only with mature male, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389733**

SOPHIE lonely fun attractive female, 21, looking for fun nights out and cosy nights in with similar male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389731**

LADY 60's, bubbly, hurt in past, likes socialising, cooking, cats, holidays, seeks kind honest gent, 58-65 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389653**

JACQUELINE 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539**

ALICE 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107**

MANDY 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555**

HI I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103**

DEBBIE slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101**

CHARLIE young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051**

LAURA single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTM older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049**

TASHA single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tlc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047**

60YR old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231**

LISA blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020**

WENDY cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614**

MARION 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159**

VAL compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155**

CARIBBEAN young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117**

SUSIE tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

NICOLE lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145**

JACQUELINE blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137**

TRIXI looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135**



YVONNE professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111**

SANDY slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTM loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109**

DEBBIE 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337**

SUE young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

51YR old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840**

KEELY blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377**

WENDY enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079**

SARAH 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626**

GEM 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369**

BECKY single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057**

CHRIS outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055**

KIRSTY 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051**

TIA 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081**

JENNY very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303**

PETITE French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

TRACY 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045**

JO 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. ACA. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043**

48YR old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

KERRY 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for flirty dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901**

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ROB early 50's, slim, attractive, friendly, GSOH, likes company, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389445**

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ROBERT 31, 6ft, blondish hair, blue eyes, fun loving, single, seeking female with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389941**

EASYGOING broadminded passionate male, seeks lady of any age for passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389939**

DAVID light hearted positive 58yr old male, has high expectation of what he can offer a woman aged between 30-52. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383275**

DENTAL practitioner handsome 47, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, seeks slim feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390798**

JOHN young 53yr old, no ties, medium build, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, laidback, black belt, likes music, meals out, nights in, self employed, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389529**

FRISKY filly 48-60 wanted by experienced jockey, me 56yr old nice easygoing fella. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389527**

56YR old easygoing male, tactile, seeks lady, 48-65 who can handle a hot blooded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389367**

SURREY male, 63, 6ft, slim, OHAC, seeks younger, slim, N/S female, no ties for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388805**

MALE 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045**

GOOD looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923**

ADE early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495**

SINGLE male, 43, likes pubs, clubs, nights in, seeks young lady 25-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390876**

DARK haired male, slim, seeks female of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391002**

TONY 45, looking for lady, any age/size/looks for evening fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390992**

HEALTHY happy 49yr old male, seeks attractive, well spoken, N/S Sussex female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390938**

DISCREET afternoon fun by the seaside, male 39, good looking, seeks female, 18-60 for afternoon slap and tickle. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390936**

MICK 5ft 8ins, medium build, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390928**

KIND professional male, looking for adult fun, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390908**

EVER hopeful male, 50, slim, dark hair, blue eyes, fun loving, warm hearted, missing that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390259**

DIVORCED male, 51, N/S, romantic, loving, caring, WLTM small/petite 50plus N/S female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390844**

TURKISH Delight! Tall dark handsome, fun loving male, good company seeks female for fun relationship, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389655**

DENTAL practitioner, handsome 47, 6ft, slim, blue eyes, thick dark hair, seeks slim, feminine female for cycling, tennis, golf and dinners out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389611**

ENGLISH gent, 60, seeking attractive African female, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390810**

MATT 43, 5ft 10ins, brown hair/eyes, seeks attractive, compatible female for fun times, drinks and adventures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390804**

6FT male, 38, dark hair, brown eyes, likes salsa, gardening, swimming, seeks female, 38-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390700**

Gay Seeking

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FRENCH researcher 65, seeks older gent 75 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390828**

JOHN 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, brown hair, slim, seeks black male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387274**

ROBERT bi-curious 49, medium build, seeks similar for discreet friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373547**

SMALL N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386**

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Air show returns after nine years, and it's bigger and better than ever

SEE PAGE 61



A NIGHT OF JAZZ

Intimate setting for Courtney Pine during festival

SEE PAGE 63

Kent Weekend

Shine on France

Take a look at some of the more unusual places to stay over the Channel

SEE PAGE 57

PLUS: Children are invited to create a fruit and veg masterpiece - **food and drink p55** Just two homes are left in exciting new development - **property p64** City cars doubling up on their design - **driving p71**







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THE INTERVIEW

Couple who champion a very special place need a helping hand to rock on

The Thanet coast has attracted holidaymakers for centuries, but its natural heritage has not always been appreciated. **Dave Mairs** meets two people who are trying to change all that.

IT has been one of the few success stories to emerge from Thanet in recent years. A corner of Kent that continues to make headlines for the wrong reasons has had welcome and ample reason to rejoice in the sustained popularity of the Rock Doc walks in which local geologist Dr Alasdair Bruce and wife Kim share some of the many physical and natural delights of the isle's coast with those keen enough to learn.

Up to 9,000 people have taken part in the walks, while wholly positive TV coverage has come by way of slots on A Place By The Sea, Countryfile and Coast, among others.

And now those public walks could fold...

With ever-tighter sources of finance, changes in funding at Thanet Coast Project, which has subcontracted the walks, have brought new restrictions.

Factors such as proximity to deprived areas and the matter of targeted audiences (single mothers, for example) now carry more weight, and it appears the Rock Doc experience does not tick enough of the bean-counters' boxes.

Strange, given that parts of Thanet might seem unhappily well qualified for such a scheme, but Alasdair and his wife are urgently seeking sponsorship for their walks if they are to remain part of the isle's tourism agenda.

They are in talks with at least one company and hopeful that the walks may be back on the scene later this year.

The walks began in 2002 and a year later the Rock Doc, which is operated as a private company, was subcontracted by Thanet Coast Project. At its peak, there were 16 walks and eight Geology Rocks sessions a year, figures that have already fallen to 10 and two respectively.

The prospect of 'Walks with the Rock Doc' vanishing altogether would be an undoubted blow to Thanet's tourism offering, and Alasdair is keen to stress where the priorities lie.



> **"There are children inland in east Kent who haven't been to the beach. We have more schools from outside the area than inside joining us."**

"It's not about me," he said as I joined him and his wife on a stroll around Kingsgate Bay. "It's about the area and getting it known to as many people as possible. I would certainly like to think the Rock Doc had raised the profile of the area.

"The joy of the Thanet coast is that it doesn't have to be worked on – it looks after itself. We just give an enhanced experience of something that is already extraordinarily special."

That, at least, is hard to dispute. The isle's chalk cliffs are themselves a wonderful and striking feature of the coastline, but the more closely you look at them and their associated beaches and rock pools, the more you realise quite how much life, or indeed life from millions of years ago, there is to discover.

From fossils to seaweeds, from birds to algae (one cave hosts a species found nowhere else in the world), the place is a treasure trove of the natural and the historical.

On our walk, Alasdair points out a fossil embedded in the cliff and says: "That's 80 million years old – it's seeing the light of day for the first time in that whole period."

And it isn't just the hard stuff that impresses. "John Craven came here with Countryfile and said that we in Thanet had one of the top four beaches [Botany Bay] he had visited in the UK," said Alasdair.

Incredibly, though, there are people just a few miles away for whom such delights are unknown. Kim ("I spent my life on the beach when I was younger") takes up the theme: "There are children inland in east Kent who haven't been to the beach. We have more schools from outside the area than inside joining us."

It's something the pair are trying to address. "Rock Doc is primarily about education and research, but the walks give me the opportunity to talk to tourists and locals alike about what is on their doorstep," said Alasdair

While Rock Doc Ltd is holding its own in a competitive marketplace, the loss of the public walks would be a sad loss to the area. But for those of us sadly familiar with the way in which Thanet has been so grossly over-developed while its economy still flounders, we'll leave the last word to Kim:

"Our environment is the way to get our tourism back – we just wish more people could see that."

• Further details about Rock Doc can be found at www.rockdoc.co.uk.





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Fruit & veg challenge gives children chance to be growing for gold

THERE is a very different type of track-and-field event going on in Kent this year as primary-school children compete for medals in vegetables.

To mark the countdown to the 2012 Olympics in London, youngsters are joining in with the Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece art competition backed by local food and drink champions Produced in Kent.

Supported by Archant KoS Media, the competition invites primary-school children from reception class to year 6 to create a picture depicting the London Games using fruit and vegetables.

The challenge is to only use in-season produce grown in the Garden of England during the early summer.

Schoolchildren, after-school allotment clubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies and Sunday schools can all enter individually or in groups, and the three best entries in both the individual and group categories will be fast-tracked to a fabulous live final to be held at Broadview Gardens, in Hadlow College, on Friday, June 29.

Children will then have the chance to re-create their fruit and veg masterpiece under starter's orders from celebrity foodscape artist and the live final judge, Carl Warner.

Finalists will be awarded gold, silver or bronze medals and a bumper selection of prizes, including framed foodscape pictures entitled London Skyline and the new children's foodscape book A World of Food, personally signed by Warner.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent, said: "Create a Fruit & Veg Masterpiece really does introduce young people to the wonders of the Garden of England in an enjoyable and creative way and I would encourage all competition entrants to join the race and go for gold."

Also up for grabs is the book, My 10 Olympic Days, by the double-Olympic gold-medallist Kent athlete Dame Kelly Holmes.

Entrants simply need to email a photo of their picture to the judges at events@producedinkent.co.uk before the deadline of Monday, June 11. More details at www.producedinkent.co.uk.



■ The 2012 fruit and vegetable art contest has been made a reality this year by the generous sponsorship of abm catering, Hadlow College and RJ Kingsland & Son.

The three sponsors are all uniquely linked via their involvement with one of the UK's leading colleges dedicated to the agriculture and horticulture sectors.

RJ Kingsland supplies its fresh fruit and vegetable to abm catering, while abm is the caterer at Broadview Garden Centre and tea rooms on-site at Hadlow College.

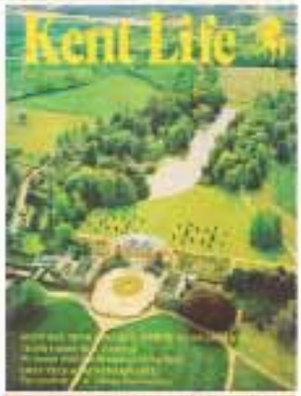
Produced in Kent's Julie Monkman said: "By picking up the sponsorship baton, these three companies are passing on the important message of eating locally-grown and seasonal produce to the next generation via this fun fruit-and-veg art competition."



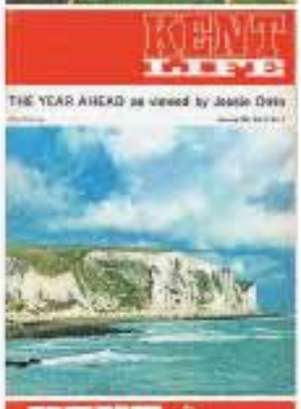




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TRAVEL

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French holiday dreams are made of this...

Gone are the days when holiday accommodation meant a choice between hotel, gîte or tent. France now offers a multitude of unusual places to stay, and the brand new Family France magazine brings you the best of what's on offer. Here are 15 of the most intriguing ideas...

HUBBLE BUBBLE

THE 'bubbles' of the Museumotel in the town of Raon-l'Étape in Lorraine were designed by architect Pascal Hausermann in the 1960s – the individual pods resemble piggy banks.

Having no square edges and being cast in concrete, the bedrooms have the feel of a cave, while the colourful décor and wacky lighting evoke the flower-power era.

■ Telephone: (0033) 3 29 50 48 81
www.museumotel.com

HELLO YELLOH!

FOR some child-friendly camping, take a break in one of the Yelloh! landscaped camping villages found in some of the most attractive areas of France.

As well as tents and mobile homes, they offer yurts, medieval tents and cottage cabanes.

■ Telephone: (0033) 4 46 67 39 73
www.yellohvillage.co.uk

TREE-TIME

FOR a dreamy night's sleep, why not tuck up in a tree-top hut?

The cabanes dans les arbres in Domaines des Ormes, Brittany, sleep up to four people in the picturesque little cabins, which are up to 14 metres off the ground. The campsite also offers stays in wooden cabins and lodges.

■ Telephone: (0033) 2 99 73 53 00
http://tree-houses.lesormes.co.uk

SPLIT PERSONALITY

SLAP bang on the Franco-Swiss border, the Hôtel Arbez in La Cure allows guests to go to sleep in France, wake up in Switzerland and breakfast on French soil before returning to pack their bags in more neutral territory.

■ Telephone: (0033) 3 84 60 02 20
www.arbezie-hotel.com

HANGING AROUND

NO NEED to worry about packing the tent pegs here – À Un Fil has come up with the ingenious idea of dangling tents from tree branches, which sit suspended 12 metres above the ground near a lake in Brittany.

Get rocked to sleep by the breeze in an amazing Plum'arbres tree tent.

■ Telephone: (0033) 2 96 36 58 87
www.a-un-fil.com

BRETON BREAK

GET in touch with nature when you stay in cosy eco-friendly lodgings on an authentic Breton farm.

The Char à bancs Ferme-Auberge has bed-and-breakfast rooms decorated in a rural chic style, as well as self-catering cottages kitted out with baby equipment and barbecues.

The farm includes a restaurant serving stews, home-made cider and rhubarb jam, while children will enjoy the outside play area, with a wooden fort, assault course, swings and slides.

■ Telephone: (0033) 2 96 74 13 63,
www.ferme-auberge-charabancs-bretagne.com

ANIMAL ESCAPADES

THERE'S no need for an alarm clock at the Parc Zoologique Cerza near Lisieux – stay in one of the self-catering timber wood lodges set in the middle of the park's 60 hectares and you'll no doubt be woken to the sounds of exotic wildlife (rhinos and lions included) roaming in the vicinity.

■ Telephone: (0033) 2 31 62 17 22
www.cerza.com

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

GET A bird's-eye view from a tent suspended in the trees on a camping holiday in Normandy.

These elevated sleeping quarters at Woody Park near Fécamp make sleeping an adventure.

Visitors can choose how high or low they want to sleep and each tent has its own ladder for easy access. There are also yurts available for those who prefer to stay grounded at night.

With a rope assault course, an animal park and paintball field on site, Woody Park has a host of activities for energetic families.

The park is open year round, with camping facilities available from April to September. Prices start from €40 per night.

■ Telephone: (0033) 2 35 10 84 83
www.woody-park.com

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SELF-CATERING accommodation is a great option when the littl'uns are in tow, but you don't always want to cart all your baby paraphernalia away with you.

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■ Telephone: 0845 489 0140
www.babyfriendlyboltholes.co.uk

RESTFUL TRAPPINGS

ANIMAL skins and ice-hole fishing aside, visitors to Domaine de la Pierre Ronde will find themselves transported to the world of the Nordic hunters with a stay in their own trapper's tent.

With space for a family of four, they're a great way to get back to nature.

If that doesn't take your fancy, cast your eye over the Domaine's additional yurts, teepees and Inuit tents set out across the 25-hectare site in the middle of the Burgundy countryside.

■ Telephone: (0033) 6 99 09 30 21
www.domainedelapierreronde.com

EAU MY WORD

SAMPLING the sights and sounds of Toulouse with the children takes time and energy, so recharge your batteries with your very own quiet spot on the water just minutes from the city centre.

Located on the famous Canal du Midi, the Péniche Amboise is a lovingly-restored barge now welcoming guests as an innovative chambre d'hôtes. With three bedrooms, a suite and outdoor dining – not to mention the roof-top jacuzzi – it's the perfect way to relax after a hard day exploring in the city.

■ Telephone: (0033) 5 62 16 94 37
www.peniche-amboise.com

CHÂTEAU CHARM

IF YOUR holiday isn't complete without a chance to scare yourself witless, then take a trip to Château Adventure, where the varied activities will satisfy even the most serious adrenalin addiction.

Set in the verdantly beautiful Dordogne Valley, the boutique château hotel links up with local activity-operators to offer a range of outdoor pursuits. Choose from hang-gliding, rock-climbing, mountain-biking, horse-riding and canoeing. For those who would rather take it a little more easily, the owners also offer nature walks, fishing and aromatherapy massage.

The 17th-century château is set in 14 hectares of gardens and woodland, and the tastefully-decorated accommodation is ideal for families or groups in that it offers rooms and suites that sleep up to seven people.

■ Telephone: 020 3287 9212
www.chateau-adventure.com

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

THERE will be no time for sleep if you want to try all 400 games at the Auberge des Voya Joueurs in Monteneuf, Brittany.

Large-scale chess sets, playing boards and sets of marbles are among the eclectic collection of games that come from different time periods and continents, promising to provide the whole family with a day of competition.

■ Telephone: (0033) 2 97 93 22 18
www.auberge-des-voyajoueurs.com

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LET your dreams transport you back to the roaring 20s when you stay in one of the seven wooden carriages of the Wagon Hôtel. Re-creating the style and atmosphere of luxury train travel of the inter-war years, the stationary railroad car at la Gare des Années Folles in Sailly-sur-La-Lys in Pas-de Calais provides comfortable sleeping carriages and an onboard 1920s-themed restaurant.

■ Telephone: (0033) 03 21 02 68 20
www.lagaredesanneesfolles.fr

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OUT & **ABOUT**

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Medway the place where diversity is centre stage

THERE are few places in the UK that can provide as much diversity as the Medway towns.

From the hustle and bustle of boutique shops on Rochester high street to the wildlife-filled, misty marshlands of Hoo, there is something here for everyone.

Medway offers both business and pleasure opportunities to all visitors as well as an important position in both British military history and English literature.

Chatham Dockyard was once a focal point of British trade as well as the birthplace of many warships that travelled the world and protected our shores for so many generations.

Nearby Brompton Barracks has its own important past in helping to defend the country, while Rochester Castle and Rochester Cathedral offer hundreds of years of Kent history as well as stunning viewing points.

The Isle of Grain port remains as a cargo-trading point offering import and export of goods to Europe and beyond.

The business parks dotted around the towns also offer large office spaces, now a realistic option for companies on the move and just a short commute from London.

On the leisure side of things, Medway has become synonymous with one of the biggest literary icons in the world, Charles Dickens.

The writer used the towns as a huge source of inspiration for characters, scenes and titles in a number of his novels.

The North Kent Marshes formed the bedrock of Great Expectations, while Eastgate House in Rochester is home to Dickens's Swiss chalet, where he wrote many works.

Kent's only professional football club is also based in Medway, with Gillingham FC offering thrills and spills on match days.

A host of universities has opted to base campuses in Medway, with specialist engineering facilities at the University of Greenwich at Chatham and the inspirational University for Creative Arts enticing students to the area.

For the night owls among us, there are pubs, clubs and a range of restaurants up and down the high streets of Rainham, Gillingham, Chatham, Rochester and Strood.

The theatres in Medway are always a big draw for top performers, with Chatham's Central Theatre becoming a staple stop for touring comedians.

Diggerland at Medway Valley Leisure Park is open every day over the summer half-term for a fantastic and unique day out. It is the ultimate adventure-park experience where children and adults alike can drive *real* construction machinery. With more than 15 different rides and drives, there is something for everyone.

Diggerland is open from 10am to 5pm at weekends and every day from Saturday to Sunday, June 2-10. What better way to spend half-term than with a day of diggers and dirt?!

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

Winging it...
Air show back after so long



The Leas, Folkestone
Saturday, June 2
1pm-5pm
01303 850522

A BATTLE in the sky will take place next month over Folkestone. Not literally, of course... it is just the much-anticipated return of the Folkestone Airshow.
After nine years away, Folkestone Town Centre Management and Heritage Special Event are bringing the Folkestone Jubilee Airshow to commemorate a very significant year for the royals.
As well as static displays and a funfair along The Leas, there will be the Red Arrows, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a Lancaster bomber, a Hurricane, a Spitfire, a Typhoon, the Breitling Wingwalkers and many more.
Just some of the stalls will feature air-related attractions and simulators for all the family. In the town there will be static tanks and jeeps, a Help for Heroes stand and Nepalese groups showing their skills. All aircraft are subject to the RAF Operational requirements and all displays are subject to the weather.



Follow the snail trails
One shell of a day out

Brogdale Farm, Faversham
Saturday, May 26
01227 728613, www.snailfarm.org.uk

THE Slow Summer Snail Farm reopens its doors for the summer on Saturday, May 26, with a Snail Festival family event.
This year's celebration of things shelled incorporates the Kent County snail-racing championships and a snail trail treasure hunt.
Admire the snails' brown and gold-patterned shells; tempt them with different vegetables and fruit, handle the snails and find out about the history of snail-farming.
From May 26 it will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturday and Sunday from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Deep-sea rescue and gunpowder gizmos
Daring by the docks

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Throughout May and June
01634 823800
www.thedockyard.co.uk

YOU can spring into action with some explosive activities at the Historic Dockyard in Chatham during weekends in May.
From 1pm tp 3pm every Saturday and Sunday the dockyard will be packed with science and technology drop-in sessions, giving visitors the chance to mix up their own gunpowder and try their hand at firing a miniature cannon or rocket missile.
And from Tuesday to Sunday, June 5-10, there will be shipwrecks-and-rescue events as part of the RNLI Historic Lifeboat Collection gallery, where dramatic tales of disastrous shipwrecks and gallant rescues will be told.
Youngsters can make and test their own self-righting lifeboat in a stormy-sea simulation tank in the No 1 Smithery, or have a go at medal-making, or even take the Seagull Trail to meet Stormy Stan, the RNLI's mascot.

Great British Home Show
Ticket offer

Glow, Bluewater
Thu to Mon, May 31-June 4
KOS Media ticket offer
www.gbhomeshow.co.uk

THE Great British Home Show 2012 heads to the new exhibition centre at Bluewater for five days at the end of this month.
The showcase highlights the best in home-improvement and enhancement, offering advice to DIY fans.
See top furnishing ideas and décor for every room in the home as well as spectacular garden examples.
BBC's DIY SOS presenter Oliver Heath, celebrity builder Craig Phillips and Gardeners' World's Alys Fowler will all be on show.
Readers of this newspaper can get two tickets for the reduced price of £12 by going to the ticket section of the website www.gbhomeshow.co.uk and entering the code KOS1.





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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

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DOVER 2012 Tattoo Military Spectacular

Display teams in force

Dover Tattoo

Fort Burgoyne, Dover
Friday and Saturday, June 1-2
01304 229111
www.dovertattoo.org.uk

MORE seats have gone on sale to the general public for the 2012 Dover Tattoo.
Enjoy The Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, The Pipes and Drums 1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Rifles and the Combined Cadet Force of the South East, who will be on parade with music and precision marching drills.
The world-famous White Helmets motorcycle display team will enthral the audience, performing a variety of tricks and rides, including car jumps, high-speed cross-overs and its trademark trick, the Fire Jump.
The evening will commence with The Tigers free-fall parachute display team dropping in to the arena.

Kicks, slams and suplexes

LDN Wrestling

The Orchard, Dartford
Friday, June 8, 7.30pm
01322 220 000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

CHAMPIONSHIP wrestling, full of sparkly costumes and audience participation, is coming to The Orchard Theatre for an evening of suplexes and bodyslams.
Boo the bad guys and cheer on your favourites as you get up close and personal.
After the show, you'll get the chance to meet the stars and grab a souvenir or two. Don't miss out on some of the top names in British wrestling, including British heavyweight champion Alan Lee Travis; wrestling politician Richard Parliament; and the masked man of mystery, the Dark Lord.
So ready your banners for an evening of high-flying fun.
Tickets are priced at £12 for adults and £10 for under-16s. Family tickets are available.





Case studies

Arty Thanet in gallery focus

Harbour Arm, Margate
Sat to Tue, May 12-22
01843 260260
www.margateharbourarm.co.uk

MARGATE Harbour Arm Gallery is reopening with an exhibition of Thanet images.
An exhibition of new work by artist and photographer David Case opens at The Margate Harbour Arm Gallery on Saturday this weekend.
It will be the first exhibition at the venue since the six-month closure of the harbour arm during sea-defence work.
The exhibition is a collection of photographic montages based on Thanet and entitled Reflections on reality: the fundamental interconnectedness of all things.
Case said: "Thanet is a place of powerful nature, challenge and revelations."
The gallery is open from 11am to 6pm and admission is free.

Classical treat from quartet

The Sacconis

St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church, Folkestone
Friday to Sunday, May 18-20
01303 858500

THE Kent-based Sacconi String Quartet has recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its foundation.
Despite tours and increasing demand from overseas, the Sacconis have, for the fifth consecutive year, opted to base their chamber-music festival at St Mary & St Eanswythe's Church in the old centre of Folkstone.
As in previous festivals, the Sacconis have invited other young musicians to join them, including pianist Tom Poster, clarinetist Matthew Hunt and a full chamber orchestra made up of players from The Royal College of Music.
This is a festival that no classical-music-lover in east Kent should miss.
The Cavatina Chamber Music Trust sponsors free access to the festival concerts for eight- to 25-year-olds.

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STAGE & ARTS

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Jazz guitarist back at club

John Etheridge

Dock Road, Chatham
Friday, May 18, at 8.30pm
01634 365352
Tickets £10 on the door

HIGHLY-RATED jazz guitarist John Etheridge is playing the popular monthly gig at the RAF Association Club this month.
This is the second visit to the club by Etheridge, who is accomplished in both acoustic and electric guitar, playing many styles from 1930s Hot Club swing to rampaging bebop and on to soulful blues.
He has toured and recorded with many well-known names, including John Williams, Soft Machine, Dizzy Gillespie and Nigel Kennedy, to name a few.
Also appearing at the Chatham club will be violinist Chris Garrick, who has been touted as the best young violinist in jazz today. He can conjure up an astonishing range of sounds and has worked with big names like Bryan Ferry, Dolly Parton, Van Morrison, Katie Melua and Cleo Laine.



Jungle laughs

Benidorm star ready to rock

The Orchard, Dartford
Sunday, June 24
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

I'M a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here comedienne Crissy Rock has booked a gig at The Orchard Theatre next month.
The Liverpool lass will bring her one-woman stand-up show to Kent and no doubt have a few anicdotes about the celebrity friends who starred alongside her in this year's jungle reality show
Rock is also known for her role as Janey in ITV comedy series Benidorm, while her recent autobiography has become something of a sensation, sitting in the top 10 of the Sunday Times best-seller list for a healthily long time.
This will be one outrageous evening of top entertainment. But be warned... the show will contain adult material.
Tickets are priced at £21.50.

Festival debut for sax legend

Courtney Pine

Theatre Royal Margate
Friday to Sunday, June 22-24
01227 787787
www.theatreroyalmargate.com

INTERNATIONAL jazz star Courtney Pine CBE is playing the Theatre Royal as part of Margate Jazz Festival 2012.
This year will be the first that Pine and his band have played the festival, which is maintaining its reputation for attracting some of the top names in jazz, including Nigel Kennedy and Jamie Cullum.
Festival-founder Dave Mossman said: "Jazz is all about eye-to-eye contact, and to see Courtney perform with a six-piece band in such an intimate setting will be incredible."
Saxophonist Pine arrived on the British music scene in 1987. His debut album, Journey To The Urge Within, was the first jazz album to make the UK Top 40. He has two MOBO Awards.





Our survey says...

Legally Blonde is hot

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Tuesday to Saturday, June 5-16
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

LES Dennis stars alongside X-Factor's Ray Quinn in the international hit musical Legally Blonde at The Marlowe next month.
Winner of seven major gongs, including Best Musical 2011 at the Olivier Awards, the romantic comedy is based on the hit Hollywood movie.
Elle Woods is dumped by her boyfriend Warner, so she decides to follow him to Harvard Law School and win him back.
Faye Brooks heads the cast, while one of Britain's favourite entertainers, Les Dennis, plays Professor Callahan.
His long career includes TV's Family Fortunes, Life's Too Short and Extras, as well as a UK tour of Hairspray.



HOMES

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Prospective landlords, look no further

WOULD-BE buy-to-let investors can earn a guaranteed 6 per cent rental yield by purchasing a two-bedroom apartment at Taylor Wimpey's Millers Court development in Canterbury.

The house-builder is offering those keen to reap the rewards of a sound investment in property a range of special incentives combined with lower prices, to make life as a landlord easy.

Jason Stokes, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey South East, said: "With banks offering low returns on savings, savvy investors with money saved are increasingly looking to bricks and mortar.

"By doing this now, they are taking advantage of today's great prices on a selection of high-quality, maintenance-free apartments at Millers Court – ready to receive a great return on their money.

"A buy-to-let home at this sought-after development looks set to become a brilliant investment, especially as property prices pick up again, with a guaranteed yield of 6 per cent on selected two-bedroom apartments."

Taylor Wimpey investor packages are available with selected apartments at Millers Court on a first-come-first-served basis.

Prices start at £159,750 for two-bedroom designs.



Colyer's is just *the* place to be



A NEW Hillreed development at Colyer's Place, off Park Corner Road in Betsham, near Bean in north Kent, has proved exceedingly popular, with only two homes remaining.

Plot 2 is a 'Bredgar' (artist's impression above) and Plot 8 a 'Betsham'. Both are semi-detached with three bedrooms and cost £274,950 each.

Colyer's Place is in an established residential location, next to open fields, giving the owner the quality of life that the countryside can offer together with easy access to all facilities.

Within 10 minutes is a choice of Waitrose or Sainsbury's supermarkets, while, of course, Bluewater is within easy reach, with free parking, a huge choice of shops, 13-screen multiplex cinema and a host of restaurants, cafés and coffee bars.

Ebbsfleet International Station is also in close proximity and for drivers there is easy access to the A2/A20/M25/M20/M2, putting Maidstone, Chatham, Rochester, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bromley within easy reach.

There is also a wide choice of schools in the area, including Dartford Grammar and Gravesend Grammar, plus Longfield Academy, which opened in September and is within a couple of miles of the development, as is Bean Primary School in Bean.

There is a part-exchange scheme in operation subject to usual terms and conditions. Full details can be found at www.hillreed.co.uk.





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Details correct at time of going to press. Computer Generated Image is of the River View Apartments at Kingsbrook Park. Photography depicts typical Berkeley interiors and the local area.

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Balcony image from a previous phase at Riverside Quarter. Internal image from a previous Countryside Properties development.

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City-centre hotel sale offers ray of sunshine for prospective buyers



HIRST Commercial is pleased to offer this amazing opportunity for sale – the Sun Hotel in Canterbury, which has a guide price of £1,500,000 for the vacant freehold.

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The property has bay windows to the lounge/reception room and opening doors giving access to a pedestrianised paved area.

The property was bought seven years ago and has since had a full refurbishment. It now offers seven bedrooms with en-suite bathroom and shower rooms, large dining and reception areas and basement suitable for a function room.

The premises has full-licence permission from 10am-11pm, seven days a week, with permits for five outside tables, five umbrellas and 14 chairs, but this would require updating by the Highways Licensing Agency.

It is close to Canterbury Cathedral's gate entrance.

■ For further details, please phone Giles Hirst on 0845 521 1980 or visit www.angelahirst.com.

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£825,000 Freehold

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£200,000 - £220,000 Boughton Lees

* Beautiful 2 bedroom semi-detached country cottage * Lounge and separate dining room * Modern fitted kitchen and sun room * Appx 140ft rear garden which backs onto fields * Located in the delightful and very popular village of Boughton Lees



£210,000 - £230,000 High Street, Hythe

* 3 double bedroom terrace house arranged over 3 floors * 14'5 x 14'3 lounge * 15'1 x 10'2 kitchen diner * Upstairs bathroom * Garage and parking space to rear of property * Very popular high street location



£240,000 - £260,000 Singleton Hill

* Stunning 4 bedroom detached house * 12'7 x 12'9 modern fitted kitchen * 19 x 11'5 lounge * Master bedroom with en suite * Beautifully tended gardens to front, rear and side * Garage and driveway * Popular Singleton Hill location



£265,000 - £295,000 Bilting

* Beautiful 3 double bedroom detached bungalow * Large plot appx 1/3 acre * Stunning views over the valley * 17'11 x 11'11 lounge * 14'5 x 10'10 kitchen * Large driveway for several cars * Sought after location * Further development potential



£350,000 - £380,000 Elham

* Beautiful 3 bedroom country cottage * Located in the very sought after village of Elham, recently awarded "village of the year" * Lounge, dining room and garden room * En suite to master bedroom * 3 off road parking spaces to front of property * Cellar



£365,000 - £385,000 Boughton Lees

* Stunning 3 bedroom detached double fronted period house * 10'4 x 11'6 kitchen and open plan to 11'3 x 12'7 dining room * Shower room and upstairs family bathroom * 20'2 x 14'5 conservatory * Off road parking for 2 cars * Rear garden appx 140ft long backing onto fields * Sought after popular Boughton Lees village location



£170,000 - £190,000

SIMILIAR PROPERTIES URGENTLY REQUIRED



£225,000 - £245,000

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Golf Cabriolet goes sporty with GTI appeal
- Chrysler releases its new executive model
- Sunny summer deals available from Hyundai



Mitsubishi's hatching a better life for drivers with MiEV

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



1ST DRIVE

SKODA CITIGO & SEAT MII

Price: from £7,630
Driving appeal: ★★★★
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Hyundai i10

Citigo and Mii – Wii two are one?

ALL cars require pretty much the same effort to design and produce, yet bigger cars command more profit.

So it's no wonder that carmakers are pooling resources on city cars to meet our need to downsize. The Toyota Aygo, Peugeot 107 and Citroen C1 are triplets, the Nissan Pixo and Suzuki Alto are clones, and the Suzuki Splash and Vauxhall Agila are peas from the same pod.

And now the VW group is at it; Volkswagen has launched the Up three and five-door city car and June sees the arrival of Seat Mii and Skoda Citigo clones from VW's Spanish and Czech arms respectively – all three are produced at the same Slovakian plant, which helps keep costs down and pressures their dearer rivals.

With the VW badge occupying a premium position compared to Seat and Skoda though, the Up is priced from £7,995 – slightly above the Mii (from £7,845) and Citigo (from £7,630) – and also has more distinctive styling thanks to a kicked up rear window line, while its two sisters have a straight line from front to rear.

The price differences might not seem much, but they mean a lot at this budget end of the market where the zero or £30 a year road tax – after year one – is a big consideration for those motoring on a shoestring.

In that case, the Skoda has the edge surely? Not so fast.

The Skoda might have the lowest entry price at £7,630, but the Mii is the cheapest to offer air con with the S A/C model (£8,345) – you'll need £8,530 to get you into the SE spec Citigo that comes with air con.

In fact, you need to go through the trim and spec lists carefully to pick the Skoda or Seat that suits you, and it still might come down to a badge thing anyway.

Seat of course, has a track record in this baby car sector that might bring some previous customers back to the fold; it made the highly popular Arosa until 2004 and continues to cultivate a sporty image that might attract younger buyers to the Mii ahead of the Citigo.

On the other hand, Skoda and its dealers are the perennial winner of customer satisfaction awards and there will be pent up demand for an even smaller offering than its popular Fabia supermini.

What both lots of buyers will get though is an exceptional new small car, based on our driving experiences of the VW Up.

These new city car clones are cheap to buy, run and insure, good to drive, promise reliability based on sound VW engineering, and the space engineering of the cabin is as revolutionary as Sir Alec Issigonis' original 1959 Mini while incorporating the tough safety standards now required.





DON'T LIKE

... the fairly basic cabin trim, but you can't expect more at this price, which is astonishingly good value for a sophisticated small car

NOT SURE

... these twins will be seen by many as a one-and-only family motor capable of making long-distance drives; more will be sold as second cars

REALLY LIKE

... how the VW group has created a family of small cars that are easy on the pocket, good to drive and tailored for various customers

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Hatching a better life for commuters

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

EGGS used to be marketed with the slogan "Go to work on an egg" and, if you commute by car, you still can – in a Mitsubishi MiEV.

Looking rather like it was hatched rather than designed, it's an all-electric spin-off from the Japanese marque's clever but now discontinued iCar. Some say the iCar's looks were its downfall, but £9,000+ was a lot for a strictly four-seat city car.

This suggests that the MiEV (Mitsubishi innovative Electric Vehicle) has even less appeal at £23,990 after the Government's £5,000 electric car grant. You do get alloys and electric windows and other goodies, but so you should.

Get over the initial eye-watering though and the MiEV makes sense as a long term second car costing peanuts to run and escaping road tax, or for commuting into a Kent town or London, where electric cars are congestion and parking charge free.

On the face of it, creating the electric car from its petrol sister was simple: apart from being nearly identical, the original 63bhp turbocharged three-cylinder petrol engine ahead of the rear wheels was replaced by a zero emission electric motor developing similar output.

But how they both used that power highlights a benefit of electric propulsion; the MiEV's motor delivers more than twice the torque or pulling power of the combustion engine, allowing 0-62mph in under nine seconds – the iCar managed just 14.9 seconds.

Drive the MiEV flat out and you'll soon have flat batteries, but sensible use of such power allows the MiEV to emerge promptly from a junction to join a stream of traffic – it can hit 30mph in less than six seconds – while regenerative braking helps recharge the batteries en route.

On our test drive, courtesy of Canterbury Mitsubishi, it showed good road manners too: the wheel-at-each-corner design ensures a good ride, with little fore and aft rocking for a short car, while the underseat batteries keep the weight low slung, giving excellent stability on bends despite your eyes suggesting that this narrow yet tall car should corner on its door handles.

The rear-wheel drive layout also means a neat turning circle and light, responsive steering – again perfect for urban driving.

Okay, the styling comes from the Marmite school of design – you love it or hate it – but it is a functioning four-seater with a passable boot. Honed by life in busy Japanese cities, the original iCar design outsmarted the German Smart by offering twice the seats yet being just 700mm longer – 3.4 metres in total.

Boot space is 227 litres, expanding to 860 with rear seats folded – not so surprising, considering the generous rear headroom. These figures compare with 139/751 and 251/951, for the Toyota Aygo and VW Up city cars respectively.

But what do you get back for your big upfront outlay on a MiEV?

Mitsubishi claims a 93-mile range, requiring £2 to charge overnight – £1.05 with Economy 7 – but you can elect for an 80 per cent/30-minute quick charge, all via the car's own lead, which plugs into a household 13-amp socket.

This amounts to £270 for 12,000 miles driving – £135 on Economy 7 – which Mitsubishi claims equates to just six per cent of the fuel costs of a comparable petrol car, before taking zero road tax and free parking into account. Servicing is also minimal.

Ah, but what about the batteries? Mitsubishi says they will still hold 80 per cent of their charging power after 10 years or around 94,000 miles. I'm betting that battery technology will have surged upwards and costs plummeted by then – remember the progress of mobile phone batteries?

MITSUBISHI MIEV: PRICE £23,990 (including £5,000 grant)



HIGHS AND LOWS: It's got speed and longevity, but some may struggle to accept the price of the Mitsubishi MiEV

Driving appeal:	★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	zero
Best rival:	Nissan Leaf

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



The 'Big C' has come back

RESURGENT Chrysler – now steered by an equally-rejuvenated Fiat – launches its second generation 300C executive flagship in June, priced from £35,995.

The four-door saloon is less in yer face than last time but remains an eye-catching exercise in auto-Americana style, with a typically fully-loaded US-style comfort spec to go with it and a choice of two diesel powertrains.



Golf Cab gets GTI flagship

HARD on the heels of our glowing VW Golf Cabriolet road test last week, comes news of a sporting GTI flagship to underpin the unisex appeal.

Priced at £29,310, or £30,610 for VW's excellent auto/manual DSG gearbox, it comes with the same 210PS (207bhp) 2.0-litre turbo four-cylinder petrol engine from the GTI hatchback, delivering 0-62mph in 7.3 seconds.



Hyundai deals from just £99

NEVER mind the rain says Hyundai as it announces sunny summer personal leases, headlining with an i10 city car, pictured, from just £99/month or versatile ix20 mini MPV from £199/month.

Even the i30 family hatch is just £190/month, with the popular ix35 crossover/SUV from £249/month, while the Korean brand's flagship i40 Tourer and Santa Fe SUV start from £349/month.

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11 Skoda Octavia 1.6 TDi S Hatchback Red, 40,000 miles **£10,995**

11 Skoda Octavia 1.6 SE MPi Estate Silver, 11,000 miles ... **– SOLD –** **£10,995**

09 Skoda Fabia 3 1.6 16v (105 bhp) 5-dr Estate Metallic Satin Grey, 9,156 miles*, Automatic, Petrol **£8,995**

10 Skoda Fabia SE 1.9 Satin Grey, 24,000 miles, Diesel **– SOLD –** **£8,995**

11 Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 bhp) SE 5-dr Hatchback Metallic Silver, 6,900 miles*, Manual, Petrol **£8,995**

08 Skoda Superb Elegance 2.0 DTi Silver, 1 Owner, Excelle **– SOLD –** ion, Automatic **£8,495**

07 Skoda Superb 1.9 TDi PD 100 Classic 4-dr Saloon Metallic Brilliant Silver, 38,700 miles*, Manual, Diesel **£7,995**

10 Skioda Fabia 1.2 (60 bhp) S 5-dr Hatchback Grey Metallic, 17,500 miles, Manual **£7,495**

06 Skoda Octavia 1.9 Ambient DSG TDi Hatchback Cappuccino Beige, FSH, 45,700 miles **£5,995**

07 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP 6v (60 bhp) 5-dr Hatchback Brill **– SOLD –** 33,500 miles **£5,995**

57 Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6v (60 bhp) 5-dr Hatchback Metallic Brilliant Silver, 46,500 miles **£5,495**

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56 Mazda MX-5 Sport 2.0 Convertible Red, FSH **£6,795**

09 Nissan Micra 1.5 DCi 25th Anniversary (86ps) 3-dr Hatchback Metallic Red, 26,116 miles*, Manual Diesel **£6,495**

03 Mini Cooper 1.6 3-dr Hatchback Metallic Pure Silver, 60,932 miles*, Manual, Petrol **£4,995**

06 Fiat Grande Punto 1.3 16v Multijet 90 Dynamic 3-dr Metallic **– SOLD –** Green, 44,500 miles*, Manual, Diesel **£3,995**

03 Toyota Corolla 1.8 VVTL-i T Sport 5-dr Metallic Steel Silver, 69,000 miles*, Manual, Petrol **£3,995**

03 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Turbo 2-dr Convertible Metallic Carbon Black, 46,000 miles*, Manual, Petrol **£3,995**

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Arden MINI/BMW recruits new Motability Specialist

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Martin commented " Arden MINI/BMW has a fine reputation for providing excellent customer service and I'm looking forward to offering this to our Motability customers. By having a dedicated specialist. Arden will be able to offer home visits when required and provide information and advice to people in the area who are thinking about leasing a Motability car. With the spacious 5 door Mini Countryman starting at £99 advance payment, it's a particularly exciting time to start."

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For more information please contact Martin Pallister on 01622 791333.

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FOOTBALL

Fallen idol ponders 'exciting' place on Priestfield board after stepping down

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE dust is still floating between the seats at Priestfield Stadium, let alone settling anywhere near the pitch, as club legend Andy Hessenthaler ponders whether to prolong his future at Gillingham Football Club.

The 46-year-old who agreed to step down as manager on Tuesday after showdown talks with chairman Paul Scally, has as yet, not cleared his desk, quite simply because he could be moving it up a few floors into a new office if he takes up a new role offered to him at the club.

Time will tell whether that will happen or not, in-fact Hessenthaler is set to mull over the possibility of becoming the football brain on the board of directors over the weekend.

"It's quite an exciting role, one I'm defiantly considering," he said. "I haven't decided on it yet, I will over the weekend.

"The title is director of the company to oversee footballing matters – from grass roots right through to senior – the chairman needs someone in the board room on the football side.

"With him living in Dubai he needs a bit more communication with people regarding the football side of that, I would be working with the manager as well with looking at players, if he identified someone he wants to look at I would have a look, I would go abroad to look at players coming in.

"If I did decide not to take up that new role, I would always be welcomed back here back, we are friends, and fans would welcome me back, if I didn't stay I would come back and watch games, I'm a supporter, I will always support the club."

In the end, the decision to end his three year contract 12 months early came as no surprise to the man appointed to take the Gills back to the promised land of League One and beyond.

Two seasons of being agonizingly close to play-offs places when automatic promotion was assumed ended Hessenthaler's second spell in charge of a club he so clearly and dearly loves.

"We are friends," he said. "It wouldn't have been a good situation for him to be in, we had an honest conversation, I respect his wishes.

"It's not about me or the chairman, it's about the football club, and if he felt that was the right decision, he's done it with a lot of honesty, and I'm happy he's been honest with me and decided to move me on.

"I had an inkling (it would happen) because I know the chairman so well and he knows me so well, we know how each other work, I could tell leading up to the Morecambe game because of his demeanour, his body language, he wasn't himself.

"It wasn't a massive surprise to me, but when it happens it's disappointing. I was here as manager and I tried to achieve what we have all tried to achieve.

"Unfortunately we have just missed out two years in a row.

"Ultimately my remit was to get us out of this division.

"I respect that decision because I respect the man and the club."

Picture: ADY KERRY



HERE TO STAY? Andy Hessenthaler will decide on his future over the weekend

HARDEST DECISION EVER FOR SCALLY

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally has said mutually agreeing to terminate Andy Hessenthaler's contract was his hardest ever decision.

It's no secret that the two are close friends, having been at the club together for a number of years.

He said: "It was, because Hessy's a close friend of mine, I had to try and divorce my friendship from my business head, and that wasn't very easy really and it's troubled me for a few days, a week now really.

"In my heart I knew it was the right decision, but it wasn't a decision I wanted to make. I had to make that decision because we couldn't progress the business without getting that sorted.



"I had a very fruitful chat with Hessy, being the honest man he is, he accepted a change was probably right, that's how it ended up.

"I think Andy has done a tremendous job for the football club over the past two years, he's, a loyal servant, he's an honest man, a man of great integrity, very hard working, and very dedicated, and of course he loves the club dearly.

"But for all that effort from him, his management team and the players, we weren't able to achieve what we thought was achievable, and getting out of this division, having had two attempts at it. I felt in my heart it was right that he should step down and we should bring someone else in to take on what he's set up."

Picture: ADY KERRY



GOOD TIMES: Matt Coles' performances earn him Lions call up

CRICKET

Paceman still on a learning curve but the signs are right for a bright future

KENT coach Jimmy Adams has backed bowling start Matt Coles to continue his good form, as long as he keeps the right attitude.

Coles has played a major part in putting the county among the early frontrunners of the LV= County Championship after four matches.

His form has warranted a call up to the England Lions squad which faces the West Indies in Northampton this week.

It comes off the back of a six wicket haul for just 32 runs that the 21-year-old right arm medium pace bowler took in the opening game of the CB40 against Yorkshire at Headingley last weekend.

Adams admitted he knew very little about the Kent squad other than the senior players, but could see the talent he had to work with once pre-season started.

He said: "He's in a really good vein of form, and he's helping us win games on the back of that form which is very, very good, and long may it continue.

"I knew a few of the senior players, but I didn't know much about the rest of the players, including Matt.

"We have had a good pre-season together, he's a talented kid, he's shown the rest of the country just how talented he is."

West Indian Adams said everyone at the club was pleased for him to get another chance with the Lions squad, having joined them in the final stages of their tour of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka earlier this year.

He also spent time with the Potential England Performance Programme in Loughborough and Chennai.

"He's had some outstanding performances, I'm excited, and everyone in the dressing room is over the moon for the kid.

"The kid has shown the talent, and attitude, he has an abundance of talent.

"If he applies that in the right way there's every chance he will be successful.

"He's done well up to this point, lets see what's happens.

"He's still on a learning curve. He has a good attitude, if he keeps that attitude I don't see why his career can't continue with good performances.

"Everybody is hoping he can keep up his good form because he's having an impact in every game he plays in."

When Coles hasn't had an input with the ball he has with the bat, shown when he scored 103 not out in the opening match of the county championship against Yorkshire at Headingley.

Since then he has taken 28 wickets in all competitions.

CRICKET

Stevens is not throwing a wobbly but he wants to bat

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

Picture: ADY KERRY



FOCUS: Darren Stevens is hoping to get better results with the bat after bowling fewer overs

BEING talented at more than one thing doesn't always have the best of results, just ask Kent batsmen Darren Stevens.

Being asked to bowl has never been a chore for the 36-year-old, in-fact it's something he loves, but if it gets in the way of his batting, which he wasn't too happy with last season, well, that's when he wants a change.

The influx of a few handy bowlers in the likes of Charlie Shreck and Mark Davies, as well as the emergence of Matt Coles, as men to lead the Kent attack this season has put Stevens down the pecking order, not that he's complaining.

It has given the long-serving former Leicestershire man more time to focus on his batting.

"Because I'm not bowling as much as I did last year I'm hoping that will take a bit of pressure off," he said.

"We have made a couple of good signings with the ball, I know they are using me as a fourth seamer at the moment, I don't mind.

"There have been times this year where I have bowled two overs, at times last year I would bowl 15, or 20 overs, it's mentally tiring on the batting.

"The way it was last year we dropped down the batting and I was in before I knew it. Putting your pads back on a couple of hours later is tough on the body and on the mental side of things.

"Don't get me wrong I absolutely love bowling, if they ask me to bowl I will.

"I know my game inside out now, I know I'm hitting the ball well, I just need to get a good score and I will be up and running."

The squad has certainly got up and running after a four game unbeaten start, in which they have won once, and dominated in three rain-affected draws. The competition for places is something Stevens feels has had a big impact on the county's form.

"More players in the squad puts pressure on you to perform," he said. "If you don't have that you get a bit laid back and don't perform your best.

"For Kent cricket to do well we need boys put under pressure, so I think it's fantastic, it can only make us a better unit, a better squad.

"We should have been sitting comfortably at the top. All the games we have played we have dominated, but rain has just defeated us."

As well as the new team mates forcing players to up their game, Stevens credits new coach Jimmy Adams' fresh approach as big factor in their good start.

"Jimmy Adams has brought discipline back to Kent cricket, and with the new recruits to the squad it has helped us massively," he said.

"The discipline side has been on and off the pitch, it's been hard work and it's starting to show.

"Jimmy doesn't just work on one aspect we have got to work on every area and bring discipline into every area."

FOOTBALL

Future of beautiful game needs protecting

KENT FA have launched a major new strategy to ensure football facilities are safeguarded and built upon in the future.

Over the next three years the association will be focusing on its Ahead of the Game strategy which will also be looking to improve the standards of coaching, number of referees, and build upon growing participation numbers.

It will involve a great deal of talking to local authorities – who own more than 80 per cent of pitches – to ensure they are kept and improved.

It is hoped the FA will be able to attract £10m of investment to make it happen.

Chief executive of the Kent FA, Paul Dolan said: "We have to change the way we approach football provision in Kent if we are to safeguard the future of the beatuiful game."

It comes off the back of research by academics at the University of Kent which showed how important football is in communities.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



THE FUTURE: Tracey Crouch, Barry Bright, and Mike Weed at the launch

The report has prompted the Kent FA to launch a major review of what it does and to unveil a new strategy for the next three years.

Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch backed the launch with Kent FA chairman Barry Bright and Professor Mike Weed, who carried out the research.

Kent FA director Brian Sangha said: "Reduction in local authority funding and internal local authority resource constraints are threatening how clubs and leagues operate."

FOOTBALL

Promotion prize in derby final

THE prize of Blue Square Premier football is at stake for two Kent sides on Sunday.

Dartford take on rivals Welling United in the Blue Square South play-off final in a massive game for both clubs.

The Darts made the final after a 3-1 aggregate win over Basingstoke, while Welling came through after a 2-1 win over the two legs against Sutton United.

Dartford will be favourites going into the match having finished in second, seven points above Welling in third.

Darts manager Tony Burman said: "It's a very important game, we have not been in this position before.

"We have done fantastically well this season.

"It's ended up becoming a derby, it's added a bit to it."

Burman said other than the long term injuries, he has the same squad to choose from.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

FOCUS

WITH **FRED ATKINS**

Guide to end of season awards

IT'S the time of year when you're press-ganged into attending the end-of-season award ceremony your club was press-ganged into buying tickets for at an extortionate rate by its league or whomever.

It'll probably be held at a golf club or a hotel somewhere near a motorway junction and the chances are you'll spend most of the time pretending you like a great number of people you actively despise.

The food will be as lifeless as Cliftonville on a Bank Holiday and while you're attempting to digest it an official will make a speech so unamusing it could have been drafted by the people who write links on South East Today - though you'll have to laugh at it for fear that if you don't your name will be noted in someone's little black book.

A "comedian" will then do a routine. He will be at least 75 years of age, will sport the kind of wig even Paul Daniels would dismiss as unconvincing and his repertoire will include a barrage of sub-Jim Davidson gags.

("Take my wife ladies and gentleman. No please, take my wife ...").

The experience is a bit like being trapped in a 1970s theme bar and there are only two ways to get through it.

The first is to drink heavily throughout. Ignore the government advice against pre-loading and take a hip flask because the wine you order on your credit card will cost northwards of £30.

The second is to place bets on where the first fight will break out - and in every league there's always a favourite - and watch as the tensions that have simmered throughout the season boil over.

The awards themselves will be tossed out to a few people who deserve them and a few more who don't.

Some alternative gongs might liven things up a little. The award for "Least Surprising Managerial Dismissal of the Year" this year would have to go to Dover for their sterling efforts in getting rid of Martin Hayes just weeks after entrusting the playing budget to him.

"Most Distressing Trend Copied from the Premier League"? How about the Sheerness Armwarmer, the tattoo every semi-professional now feels he has to have so he can look like Daniel Agger.

Competition would be at its fiercest for the "Most Cretinous Bureacratic Decision of the Year Award" so perhaps a separate lifetime achievement medal could be commissioned for services to institutional pomposity?

"Freeloader of the Year" would also be eagerly contested by the suited officials who turn up in boardrooms and rate clubs by the standard of vol-au-vent offered.

It'd make things a little more lively than the "Long and Meritorious Service Award" which should only be handed out to anyone who can listen to that sentence without wanting to blow their brains out.



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